

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

A LARGE portion of every daily newspaper that appears continues to be filled up by reports of the proceedings before the Election Commissions. Nothing, however, can now be added to what we already know of the character of the voters at Great Yarmouth, Reigate, Lancaster, and Totnes, and one would think that a case for disfranchising these boroughs had already been made out. Bribe-givers and bribe-takers, however, are still being brought forward, and there is no saying for how long a time these masses of corruption will be stirred. A French journalist, M. Prévost Paradol, writing on this subject, says, with truth, that the English public does not practice the precept of washing its dirty linen *en famille*, and does not consider that "the honour of the country makes it desirable carefully to hush up any disgraceful facts which its enemies could misuse to depreciate its institutions." It is not enough, however, to publish facts. The pestilent disease by which so many electoral bodies are affected is sufficiently well known, and what we want to discover now is how to cure it. Disfranchisement seems an appropriate remedy enough; for, as M. Prévost Paradol observes, it is a kind of indirect fine inflicted on the

electors, since something is taken away from them which they understood only too well how to sell. But this, after all, is but a clumsy means of cure. It is like cutting a man's leg off when there is, perhaps, a possibility of saving the limb. We are very much afraid that, if every borough in which bribery takes place were to be disfranchised, there would be an end altogether to the representation of small boroughs in Parliament. It has been suggested that the principle of individual disfranchisement might be advantageously applied; and it certainly would be worth while trying, as an experiment, whether bribery might not be diminished by depriving every man of his vote who gives or takes a bribe. Unfortunately, there are so many men in Parliament who owe their seats to corruption, that our legislators may fairly be suspected of not studying the means of checking electoral malpractices with any very great earnestness. These are the men who, if they do not defend bribery as a system, at least seek to represent it as something very venial and by no means worth making a fuss about. A member of Parliament, it is said, is not necessarily a bad member because he has paid for his seat. Even our French critic, in his enthusiasm for English Parliamentary institutions, will have

it that the composition of the House of Commons is not necessarily deteriorated by the presence in its body of men who have only got there by corrupting voters. It is undeniable, as he points out, that corruption carried on with the resources of the State would have much worse consequences—as, for instance, if, instead of the candidates paying the electors, they obtained their votes by promising in the name of the Government a place, a road, a canal, or a railway; but what we object to, and what we must at least endeavour to remedy, is that corruption should be practised at all. The member for Great Yarmouth, after purchasing 236 votes for something like £4000, may still be a capable, and is tolerably sure to be an independent, legislator; but all we can say for certain of such a man is that he is very rich, and that he does not mind paying dearly for the honour of representing his locality in Parliament. Extend the system, and the House of Commons would be simply an assembly of the richest men in England. Pitt, according to Byron's well-known sarcasm, ruined his country gratis; and there are evidently plenty of men who would not mind purchasing the power of at least helping it towards ruin at a very high price. One thing we consider quite certain,



EXPLOSION OF A BOILER IN THE HAMMER-HOUSE AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD.

that our administrative system will never be seriously reformed if the House of Commons, instead of being the best Legislative Assembly that England can produce, continues to become, more and more every day, that to which it is now so often compared—a club with a most expensive entrance-fee.

One remedy for electoral corruption which is often suggested is a lowering of the suffrage; but it is just possible that this might have merely the effect of cheapening votes by increasing the supply. Before one of the Commissions now sitting, an agent, who was asked how he managed to secure votes at municipal elections when he had to deal with thousands instead of hundreds of voters, replied that votes were purchasable at municipal as at other elections, but that they only cost half a crown apiece! This answer seems to have made a great impression on M. Prévost Paradol, who, in the article to which we have already several times referred, remarks that the first result of universal suffrage in such places as Great Yarmouth and Totnes would be to lower the price of votes from five pounds to half a crown. Against this argument we may put the fact that in Lambeth, Finsbury, Westminster, and other large boroughs, members have been elected, not only without having purchased votes, but without even being called upon to pay the ordinary legal expenses. The evil of bribery at elections is a difficult one to deal with, no doubt; and the truth is it has always been dealt with far too leniently. If the penalty of disfranchisement were attached to each individual act of bribery, that at least would have the effect of diminishing the evil.

Some startling news from the Continent was published at the beginning of the week by a paper entitled *L'International*, which appears simultaneously in Paris and London, and claims to be an organ of the French Government. According to this journal France, Prussia, Austria, and Russia had agreed to a convention against Belgium, whose "revolutionary passions" it was proposed to quiet. When several strong Powers resolve to put a stop to the "revolutionary passions" of a small Power incapable of resistance, they generally do so (as the well-known cases of Poland and Denmark show) by seizing its territory and dividing it among themselves. Accordingly, the announcement made by *L'International* was at once looked upon as a threat to partition Belgium. It is satisfactory to find this intention disavowed by an official or semi-official journal called *L'Avenir National*; and we can quite believe that France, Prussia, Austria, and Russia have not formed an alliance either with a view to the suppression of Belgian independence or for any other purpose. But if the cries of alarm that are continually being raised by the Belgian journals are to be taken as an indication, Belgium, just now, must be in a very dangerous position.

In the meanwhile, political speculators in this country seem unable to make up their minds whether France and Prussia are on the point of forming an alliance, offensive and defensive, or of going to war. On the one hand, France is accused of meditating, in combination with Prussia, an attack on the liberties of Belgium; on the other, she is represented as implacable in her hostility to Prussian aggrandisement, and resolved at the earliest opportunity (but not until her troops have been armed with the new Chassepot breech-loader) to renew the demands made the other day in such a suspiciously mild tone by M. Drouyn de Lhuys. The feeling in the French army is known to be entirely in favour of the policy of the late Minister of Foreign Affairs.

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION IN CHATHAM DOCKYARD.

SHORTLY after the hour for the commencement of work in Chatham Dockyard, on the morning of Friday week, a terrific explosion occurred in the steam-hammer shop, by which two of the workmen lost their lives, while between twenty and thirty others sustained more or less serious injuries. The scene of the calamity was a building in which the steam was generated for working one of the large four-ton steam hammers, as well as for driving some of the machinery used in the metal-mills. Steam had been got up in the large boiler, when the boiler, which was of 20-horse power, and capable of working up to a pressure of 60 lb. to the square inch, burst, when all the establishments were in full operation and the yard crowded with workmen. The results which followed the explosion were most fearful, nearly the whole of the buildings adjacent to the steam-hammer shop being laid in ruins. The top of the boiler itself, which was calculated to weigh between 6 tons and 8 tons, was lifted high into the air over the roofs of the foundry and smithery, in the passage-way between which it fell, without doing any damage beyond tearing away a small part of the foundry wall. The boiler-house, a portion of the foundry, and the hammer-shop were levelled with the ground, and the boiler in the adjoining building turned completely round; while portions of the iron roofs of the buildings destroyed were carried to a considerable distance, pieces of angle iron weighing several hundredweight being hurled on to the roofs of the adjoining building-sheds.

Immediately the occurrence became known all the available members of the dockyard police force, under the direction of Mr. Superintendent Strength, together with numbers of the dockyard hands, were on the spot to render assistance, and to search among the ruins for the bodies of those workmen found to be missing. After searching for about an hour the body of Robert Stallwood, one of the stokers, was discovered, and an hour or two afterwards that of Frederick May, also a stoker, was found, both men being very much mutilated, and quite dead. The bodies were afterwards removed to Melville Hospital to await an inquest by the coroner.

As the intelligence of the occurrence became known in the town crowds of the wives and other relatives and friends of the workmen congregated in front of the dockyard to ascertain any particulars respecting the injured, but every precaution was adopted by the dockyard officials to allay the anxiety manifested, the whole of the workmen employed in the departments where the accident occurred being sent to their homes.

With regard to the causes which led to the explosion of the boiler no perfectly satisfactory reason can at present be assigned. The safety-valve was found in its proper state, and therefore negatives the supposition that it had been tampered with by the engine-driver or stokers to make up for a deficiency of steam. A minute inspection of the remains of the boiler appears to lead to the conclusion that the water had been allowed to get too low, and thus caused the explosion.

During the whole of Tuesday a large number of workmen were engaged in clearing away the ruins of the buildings destroyed and in

taking down those portions which were considered to be dangerous, the operations of those employed being superintended by Major Pasley, the superintending engineer at the dockyard. The lofty chimney-stack, which escaped destruction, was found to be in such a tottering condition that it was decided to throw it down, and the work was effected, without accident, during the morning. The still loftier stack at the metal-mills appears to have been shaken by the explosion, and it is not improbable that, from prudential reasons, it will be decided to take it down. For some considerable distance round the scene of the accident the yard was strewn with rubbish, while scarcely a single whole pane of glass remains in any of the adjacent buildings. The whole of the machinery in the shop adjoining the boiler-house in which the explosion occurred has been rendered useless; while the roof and sides of the building itself have been blown down, and altogether the large workshop so shattered and shaken that it will require to be rebuilt. The extent of the property destroyed by the explosion may be inferred from it is stated that it will occupy several months to re-erect the buildings entirely and partially swept away.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Public opinion in Paris on the question of Prussian influence is once more excited. This time the sore has been set running afresh by what are considered the excessive demands of Prussia upon Saxony and the indifference with which Bismarck has treated French representations on the subject.

The Imperial Government have ordered the Chassepot rifle to be placed in the hands of all the line regiments by the end of the year, and a reorganisation of the army is contemplated. Preliminary to the latter step a committee of investigation has already been appointed, who are instructed to discover and mature a scheme for raising the army in case of need to a million and a half of men, without disturbing commercial and agricultural interests.

General Castelnau, Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor, has left Paris for Mexico, on a special mission. It is stated that he will deliver to the Emperor Maximilian an autograph letter from the Emperor Napoleon.

PRUSSIA, GERMANY, AND AUSTRIA.

In the Prussian Chamber of Deputies, on the 7th inst., the Annexation Bill was adopted by 273 against 14 votes. Subsequently Count Bismarck laid before the House a bill for the incorporation of Schleswig-Holstein with Prussia, expressing at the same time a wish that it should be dealt with by the Chamber with the least possible delay.

The semi-official *North German Gazette* of the 7th contains an article upon the anti-Prussian attitude assumed by the Belgian press. The article says:—"The hope that after the conclusion of peace the Belgian press would be careful to treat Prussia with more consideration has not been fulfilled; on the contrary, it is proving itself to be a decided enemy to the national development of Germany. The Belgian press would do well to take heed lest at some future time it be reckoned among the enemies of Prussia. The journalists of Belgium fear one powerful neighbour, insult another, and repress all national liberty in their own country. Let them at last become conscious of the responsibility they incur."

The ratification of the treaties of alliance were exchanged on the 8th inst. between Prussia and Oldenburg, Saxe-Weimar, Brunswick, Anhalt, Altenburg, the two Schwarzburgs, Waldeck, the two Lippe, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Reuss (younger branch), and the Hanse Towns; and between Prussia and the two Mecklenburgs on the 10th.

Up to the present time the negotiations with Saxony have not referred to that kingdom's future position in the North German Confederation. Before entering into negotiations on this subject Prussia demands that the Saxon troops shall evacuate Königstein. To this requisition, it is said, Saxony has agreed.

A meeting of Liberal members of the former Diet of the Duchy of Nassau has unanimously voted an address to the King of Prussia and Count von Bismarck acknowledging the annexation of the duchy and requesting a decision supporting the interests of the country in the claims made by the Duke to the ducal domains.

The Austrian Minister of War has issued an order, according to which the regiments of the Austrian army hitherto bearing the names of the King of Prussia, the Prussian Princes, and the Grand Dukes of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Baden will no longer be so designated.

The Austrian Government is about to effect an entire reform in the present system of military conscription, and it is said that means will be eventually adopted for doubling the number of the available forces of the Austrian empire. The Archduke Albrecht is expected to be appointed Generalissimo of the Austrian army.

General John has been provisionally intrusted with the post of Minister of War.

A meeting of the deputies of the German Diets of Austria has been held at Aussee, Styria, to consider the measures to be adopted for determining the position of the German population of Austria, and for preserving their connection with Germany. The meeting recognised that the formation of a united German party was indispensable, and that the principle of dualism, with the restriction that certain matters be recognised as common affairs and dealt with by common Parliamentary treatment, was the only arrangement by which real liberty could be attained. It was further agreed that the state of things imperatively called for a clear definition of the competency of the Representative Assemblies, with a reservation in favour of the maintenance of the peculiar institutions of the different countries, as well as for a revision of the Constitution by a legal and general representation of the countries this side the Leitha.

Bohemia is being rapidly rid of the Prussians, to facilitate whose departure the ordinary railway traffic arrangements are interrupted, and not less than eight military trains run daily to and from the Saxon frontier.

ITALY.

A Royal decree has been issued ordering the dismissal of 58,000 men of the classes of 1842 and 1843, and of all those who voluntarily enlisted in the regular army during the war.

The *Nazione* of Florence states positively that, upon the popular vote in Venetia taking place, the King's Government will make no change in the political, military, or administrative position it has taken up in that province in the name of national right.

The financial negotiations between Austria and Italy are said to be nearly completed at Vienna. The Plenipotentiaries are believed to have agreed upon reproducing in the treaty about to be concluded the stipulations already inserted in the Treaties of Prague and Paris. It is expected that the negotiators will confine themselves to laying down in the treaty the principle of arrangement, and that the liquidation will be carried into effect by special commissioners, without the conclusion of peace being delayed.

THE NETHERLANDS.

A popular disturbance took place at Amsterdam on the 11th, in consequence of the annual fair having been prohibited by the municipal authorities on account of the prevalence of cholera. The populace invaded the Bourse, and business was completely interrupted.

TURKEY.

A Constantinople correspondent does not draw a very hopeful picture of the condition of the Turkish empire, and laments the probable retirement of Lord Lyons from the English Embassy at a moment so critical as the present. According to him—and events go far to support his theory—the idea of establishing a Byzantine empire is no longer confined to dreamland, but threatens, at no distant period, to become a fact. What is passing in Candia is only the commencement of the struggle which, sooner or later, must ensue in Turkey. Throughout the European portion of the empire the discontent is wide-spread and general, and it exists

among the fanatical Mussulmans as well as the Christians. In the Candian affair the Porte at first called for unconditional surrender. It was met by the insurgents with the cry of "No surrender!" Terms were next offered, and the Candiot were promised exemption from various fiscal burdens: all to no purpose. Tired beyond endurance of the oppression of the hated Mussulman, they now cry for annexation to Greece. To prevent this consummation without the shedding of blood Kiritly Mustapha Pacha, surnamed the Citizen of Crete, and who has large possessions there, has been deputed to offer further concessions; but that his mission is likely to be successful is greatly doubted. Meanwhile, General Kalergis is among the insurgents, with an abundant supply of money, and the Candiot are encouraged in their resistance to the Turkish authorities by the presence of two United States vessels of war and the openly-expressed sympathy of the American officers.

Intelligence from Athens, dated the 4th inst., states that the Cretan Assembly General had rejected the propositions made to them by the Egyptian commander. The Pacha of Epirus having demanded that all the Christians in that province should sign a declaration of fidelity to the Sultan, the inhabitants of forty villages had declared their independence and taken refuge in the mountains.

THE CAUCASUS.

The troubles in the Caucasus, if suppressed on the seaboard of Abasia, are extending elsewhere, private letters received at St. Petersburg, and dated the 11th of August, stating that the insurrection was also in full vigour in Karabagh and Daghestan, the scenes of frequent hostilities on former occasions, and that the mountaineers had concentrated their forces to the north and south of Derbend.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 1st inst. President Johnson was still continuing his progress to Chicago, and was everywhere received with acclamations by the people along the route. At Auburn, Mr. Seward's residence, he was entertained at a banquet, where the Mexican Minister was introduced. Speeches were, of course, made on the occasion, and the President took advantage of Senor Romero's presence to utter a few significant words respecting the state of affairs in Mexico, implying that the month of November would see that country delivered from the foreign yoke and Republican institutions in full swing. General Grant went even further than this, and, identifying the United States with the insurgent cause, gave a toast to its success. The enemies of the President are very loud-tongued in their denunciations of him and his policy. Wendell Phillips calls upon Congress to depose the "perjured usurping traitor," and Butler is making himself once more conspicuous by advocating the exclusion of the South from representation. The Radical Convention was rapidly assembling at Philadelphia, and the aspect of affairs altogether gave promise of an exciting struggle between the two great parties in the States.

The New York papers report the death of Mr. Dean Richmond, who had been the leader of the Democratic party in America during the last fifteen years. Although totally uneducated, and eccentric to a degree, Mr. Richmond, by his natural abilities and enterprising character, commanded an influence in the politics of the United States that has seldom been enjoyed by any other man. He made presidents, governors, and senators innumerable, yet, with a self-denial that did him infinite honour, he was never a place-holder himself. His loss will be sincerely felt by President Johnson, who entertained the highest regard for his opinions and advice; and to the Democratic party, whose councils he had guided for so long a period, it will be all but irreparable.

MEXICO.

From Mexico we learn, through French sources, that the Imperial troops had evacuated Monterey on July 25, and Saltillo on Aug. 6, by order of Marshal Bazaine, the commander of the French army, and had fallen back upon San Luis Potosi. By way of set-off to this intelligence the Imperialists comfort themselves with the defeat of a Juarist column near Mazatlan, and success in another rencontre with the "rebels" at some place not named. Marshal Bazaine's presence at San Luis is said to have for its object the making of dispositions for the defence of the frontier in that direction, preliminary to the departure of his troops for France.

NEW ZEALAND.

By the new Panama route we have advices from New Zealand to so recent a date as July 24.

The General Assembly had been opened with the usual speech by the Governor, who congratulated the assembled legislators on the opening of the Panama mail service, the reviving prosperity of the country, and the prospects of peace. The war is now believed to be virtually at an end. Only a few of the Hau-haus hold out, and William Thompson, the redoubtable Kingmaker, and the ablest native chief New Zealand has produced, is actually a guest of the Governor. In a few days the northern and middle islands would be united by a cable—probably the greatest blow which could be inflicted on the party who are favourable to a separation of the two islands and their organisation into distinct colonies.

SUCCESS OF MISSIONARY EFFORT.—The Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, successor of the late Rev. John Angell James, wears a luxuriant beard and moustache, and is very dark. A lady who would never previously subscribe to missions, being an advocate of the principle of paying by results, and being of opinion that missionary enterprise had not produced much fruit, heard Mr. Dale preach a missionary sermon, after which she became a subscriber to the mission funds. People wondered what it was that so deeply impressed her, and she relieved their curiosity by remarking that, "She never had thought much of missions before, but after she saw what the grace of God had done for that poor Hindoo," meaning Mr. Dale, "she could refuse to subscribe no longer."

THE WELL OF ST. KEYNE.—The world-renowned well of St. Keyne, near Liskeard, famous for its alleged power (celebrated in Southey's ballad) to confer superiority on that one of a newly-married couple who first drinks of its waters, is in a sad state of neglect. The channel which supplies the marvelous waters is stopped, the bed of the fountain filled with dry stones. Of the five trees—an oak, three ashes, and an elm—that were so strangely rooted together above the roof of the fount, but two remain: these are the elm and one of the ashes. The sacred water is still procurable at a neighbouring cottage, from the original spring. The fountain itself is, we are glad to learn, about to be restored to its recent character, so far as it is possible to do so.

ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—Now that the new cable has been laid and the old one has been recovered, the "Anglo-American" Company, which was established to act simply as the agents of the original Atlantic Telegraph Company, will be dissolved, and the property will vest in the original proprietors. By the terms of the arrangement the Atlantic Telegraph Company reserved to themselves the right of terminating the agreement with the Anglo-American at any time before the 1st of January, 1867, on giving three months' notice to that effect, by payment to the company of £1,200,000, or double the amount of its capital, the Anglo-American reserving to itself in the event of being thus paid off, of taking payment of one half the amount in the ordinary Atlantic Telegraph shares at par instead of cash. We understand the notice to pay off the company on these terms will be given as soon as the necessary arrangements for raising the required capital are made. At present the Anglo-American dividend of 25 per cent out of the earnings of the single line is secured, and with both lines at work, and with a reduction of 50 per cent on the tariff of charges, the revenue of the company will be very considerably in excess not only of the 25 per cent reserved for the Anglo-American, but of the amount required to pay the dividends of the 3 and 4 per cent on all the descriptions of original Atlantic Telegraph stock; and, if the figures given in the *Times* are accurate, there will be a very large surplus for division, after all these payments, between old and new companies. No good can possibly result from keeping up two distinct companies; the public will be the gainers by the unity of action and management which would be secured by having the telegraph into the hands of one company. The shareholders of the new company will be amply compensated by receiving back double the amount of their capital, with any dividends they may earn before the arrangement is carried out, and the original shareholders, who have borne the burden of so many delays during the last nine years, will receive, as is their due, the whole of the profits resulting from the working of the telegraphic communication which they have been the means of establishing. By the issue of 8 per cent debentures or preference stock, the Atlantic Telegraph Company would be enabled to pay off the old company, and secure for themselves an additional 9 per cent of dividend on £600,000 of their capital.

THE QUADRILATERAL. THE LINES OF VERONA.

As much interest now attaches to the famous Quadrilateral, in connection with the transference of Venetia from Austria to Italy, we propose to publish Engravings of these fortresses. We commence the series this week with Verona, of which we copy the following excellent description from the letters of the *Times* military correspondent:—

"The sensations with which one regards a nest of fortresses such as the Quadrilateral are very different in war and peace. When the Archduke fought the battle of Custoza, Verona was regarded as a port in a storm—a refuge in the hour of need; for his whole army might have sought shelter within the line of her forts if the fortunes of the day had turned against the Austrians, and defeat instead of victory had attended their arms. But now that Italy has achieved her long self-set task, and it only remains for diplomatists to settle the exact terms of the treaty, there is a crushing weight in the parapets, ditches, and detached forts that makes one long for the free mountain air so near in space and yet so far removed in nature from these oppressive fortifications. Josefstadt, Königgrätz, and Theresienstadt are border strongholds; Olmütz is a great fortress; Venice is a pearl placed in an almost impregnable casket; but Verona is a fortified camp, built to contain a host, which it can shield from sudden attack, and yet suffer to go forth against the enemy without a check upon the mobility of the mass of men. The Austrians have not exaggerated its capabilities in this respect, nor have the sums spent upon it been overestimated, and yet it is disappointing on the whole, and for purposes of defence does not appear to me nearly equal to Venice. In studying its capabilities it is always necessary to take into consideration that the lines have been constructed rather as a refuge for an army and as a great strategical point to be held than as an ordinary fortress. The town contains some 60,000 inhabitants, yet it seems but a garrison of soldiers; some of its fine old churches are turned into hospitals, its theatres into corn stores, and the most perfect Roman amphitheatre in Europe, a contemporary of the Coliseum at Rome, was used as a prison for the Italians taken at the battle of Custoza.

"The strategical importance of the Quadrilateral chiefly depends upon the facts that it covers the passage of the great rivers, that the principal roads from the south and east pass through it, and that it can always contain safely an army prepared to issue forth at any moment and act on the enemy's communications, or attack him in flank or rear. By its proximity to the Tyrol and its command of the great route to Vienna, by the Brenner, it may also be considered as the key of the Tyrol. If Austria could continue to hold Verona, she could pass her armies into Italy whenever she pleased; and it is not too much to say that Italy's existence as a nation capable of holding its own depends more upon the possession of Verona than of Venice. This strategical importance is not a late discovery. Parts of the walls of the Emperor Gallienus still remain, but for the most part forming the sides and angles of more modern houses. Theoderic and Charlemagne successively fortified the place, and the works of the Scaligeri, improved by San Micheli in the early part of the sixteenth century, are left to show how art can be combined with utility, and beauty with the strength required to resist the sieges of that period. But long-range rifled guns have introduced a new era in fortifications; so that, if the enemy is to be kept at a safe distance, it is necessary to build forts far outside the enceinte, and when these are taken it is doubtful if the main works would be of more use than to gain better terms of capitulation. Here lies Verona's weakness; for if the besieger advances steadily against two or three of the forts and takes them, as he easily may, by regular attack, the remainder of the works are almost in his power. The outer forts have all been built since 1815, and may be said to have always been in process of building since that year; for, as the arms improved which could be brought against her, Verona stretched out her grasp further and further upon the surrounding country. And this process was very needful, for the enceinte is weak, consisting on the east and south, for the most part, of very flat bastions, weakly flanked and capable of being enfiladed without much difficulty; and on the west and north by irregular works, some of which are more picturesque than powerful.

"Though Verona lies at the foot of the last spurs of the Tyrol, the town itself is almost completely on flat ground and is commanded by the most salient point of the mountain which juts out from the imposing Alps above, reaching close down to the Adige, which here winds backwards and forwards through the town and its protecting forts. These windings are all in favour of defence; for they render a direct advance up or down the river bank impossible. The mountain spur above the town divides itself into three different elevations. That on the west comes quite down upon the Adige, about 5000 paces from the nearest point of the enceinte; and, as an enemy could not turn the fortress in this direction without crossing the Adige and exposing his flank and communications to the army in the shelter of the works, there are no forts on this elevation; but that in the centre completely commands the town, touching the river where it makes its next bend, about the very centre of the works, and is occupied, besides the Scaligerian main works, with their towers and forked battlements, by four forts and four towers, eight distinct works, all completely detached from one another, the furthest of them being about 5000 paces from the bend of the Adige, and the nearest about a sixth of that distance. The third division of the spur is separated from the others by a considerable valley, and may, indeed, be called a distinct spur. It does not reach to the river, but commands the third bend and the country to the south-east by two forts, the furthest of which is under 5000 paces from the stream, and about the same distance from Fort Empress Elizabeth, which is situated on the road to Vicenza, and commands the approaches from the east both by road and railway. Supposing an enemy to have taken Fort Elizabeth, and to be advancing along the road to the town, he would pass close by the bend of the river, receiving the fire of Fort Catterina (within the loop), and after marching 5000 paces, would reach the part of the enceinte to the east of the place, and find himself face to face with the first pentagonal bastioned front constructed in Europe, by the genius of San Micheli. This part of the works is flanked on its left by Fort Biondella, at the south-east point of the central spur mentioned above, and on its right by Fort Scholl, which lies between the loop of the river in which is situated Fort St. Catterina (or Fort Hess) and the loop which passes through the town. But I must not forget that a new fort has lately been constructed, though not yet quite finished, about half way between Fort Empress Elizabeth and the nearest of the forts on the last-named spur of the hills. On the west and south of the river are, first, part of the enceinte flanked by Fort Procolo on the right, near the Bastion St. Procolo, and in front of it the Redoubt Wallmoden. Both these flank the river in the north-west direction, and sweep the ground in rear of the next line of forts which lie outside, forming a chain along the railway at distances from each other of about 1000 to 1500 paces from centre to centre. A train coming down the valley of the Adige would cross the river just as it reached the first spur mentioned above, and immediately on the right of this point lies the Work (or Fort) Albrecht. The river makes a small bend before the railway runs close to it again between the stream and Fort Emperor Francis Joseph. Here the line of the water is abandoned, and the train sweeps round in a curve which passes close to Fort Strafsolde, Radetsky (the only one behind the railway), Lichtenstein, Aspre, Schwarzenburg, and Wratislav. At this point, south-west of the centre of the town, the railway turns in, leaving the chain of works, which are continued by Fort Clam, the tower of Caloz; and, finally, a little retired, stands the large Fort of St. Catterina (or Hess) mentioned above. In this line there are, therefore, eleven forts, covering the town and a considerable portion of the winding river, while their rear is protected sometimes by the river, sometimes by Forts Wallmoden and Procolo, sometimes by the enceinte; and, finally, behind Fort Catterina is Fort Scholl, on the other side of the river.

"But the hand has been stretched further than this, for there are five forts in a curve exterior to those just named—Crown Prince, Archduchesses Gizella, New Wratislav, Stadion, and last

but not least interesting, the new and excellently constructed earth-work Ca Vecchia. The outer line averages about 5000 paces from the nearest part of the enceinte, and the inner line wanders rather irregularly about half way between. Fort Ca Vecchia is particularly interesting, because it is the newest specimen of Austrian fort building, and indicates the result of their experience. In the first place, then, it is entirely built of earth, the men living in bomb-proof sheds, so to speak, covered with earth, and forming by their roofs a wide ramp behind the parapet. By this means the defenders are always close to their work, and never under fire except when at their places on the walls. In the next place, the thickness of the parapet is 24 ft., which is considered necessary to resist even the comparatively small rifled guns likely to be brought against it. Thirdly, between every two guns, when in a position at all exposed, is a traverse, 24 ft. long and 12 ft. thick, made of huge gabions of 7 ft. high and 4 ft. in diameter, the interstices between each gabion being packed with fascines, the top being also of fascines, and then 2 ft. or 3 ft. of earth. But the circulation of men through the works must not be interrupted, so passages are made just under the shelter of the parapet and running all round the fort. The roofs of these holes through the traverses are bombproof, and afford the men a shelter under which they can seek safety if the enemy's shot and shell are coming too thickly. Out of this passage, and at right angles to it, there leads from each traverse into the parapet a small chamber where ammunition is kept in small quantities at a time for immediate use. The road into the fort from behind dives under ground through a passage of wooden beams supporting the earth at the sides and on the top; galleries on each side lead up into the interior of the work, but the main passage is continued to the main ditch in front. Covered *caponnières* flank the ditches, being placed at three of the angles. The gorge is closed by a parapet also of earth, and two small bastions project in rear of each end of the fort, armed with three field-guns each. The whole was two months in preparation, and cost about £100,000. It is constructed for thirty-five guns. Numerous earthworks have been built this year between the old works, besides three new forts, and the sum mentioned above as the cost of one of the latter may give an approximate idea as to the expense which the retention of Venetia has been to Austria.

"Verona is, however, indifferently armed. The guns are few compared with the extent to be defended, and of small calibre, those rifled being seldom heavier than so-called 12-pounders."

The victualing of the fortress has been amply provided for, the storage constructed being capable of containing provisions and ammunition for the garrison for six months, and for the army of occupation for two.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

PICKING UP THE 1865 CABLE.

WE have received from the authorities connected with the Atlantic Telegraph a full account by Mr. Deane of the scene in the harbour of Heart's Content on the landing of the shore end of the new cable on July 27, and a diary of the proceedings in connection with the recovery of the 1865 line. The Albany and Terrible started on Aug. 1. The Governor of Newfoundland arrived on the 8th, and visited the Great Eastern; and on the following day the Great Eastern and Medway left to join their fellow-labourers. The great ship rolled a great deal during a heavy sea, but the rolling is declared to be very unlike that of any other ship. "It is a long, measured movement, unlike the rapid action from side to side in a smaller vessel." On the 12th they learnt from the Albany that Mr. Temple had been grappling and had hooked the cable.

We have in the narrative extracts from the log of the Albany, but the general character of her operations is already known. The Great Eastern commenced grappling on the 13th, in very favourable weather. The machinery seems to have worked to perfection. On the 17th the missing cable was lifted two miles from its oozy bed, making its appearance at a quarter to eleven, ships time, amidst a cheer which will never be forgotten by those who heard it. But the applause had barely passed away when the fact became known that the cable had quietly and easily disengaged itself from the flukes and spring of the grapnel, and left those who witnessed this fresh disaster more depressed from this great slip which had taken place between "cup and lip." One half of the cable was covered with ooze, staining it a muddy white. Upwards of nine miles were lifted from the ground. The long line was soon let down to fish again, and the Albany and Medway, which were near, went on with similar operations. On Sunday, Aug. 19, the Great Eastern reached the cable again, and it was buoyed for the night. On the 23rd the grapnel was again lowered. Two or three times the Medway and Albany appear to have been mistaken as to their success, signalling that they had hooked the cable when such was not the case. Acts of personal daring are recorded. On the morning of the 21st the Great Eastern came alongside of a buoy, which was found adrift. Steaming up to it, and having it towed by a boat under the starboard bow, Thornton, one of the boatswain's mates, was lowered in a bow-line to the buoy, which turned round with him like a top, and he was repeatedly immersed in the water. He managed, however, to hook a chain on to it, and at 11.30 it was hoisted on board. The riding chain had broken at the angle. Some time before the grapnel came up with the cable on the previous Sunday, Clark, the diver, was extremely anxious to be permitted to go down twenty fathoms to see whether the grapnel had hooked the cable!

On the 25th the store of rope had become lessened by two miles lost by the Albany and two miles by the Great Eastern. The cable seems on the next day to have been passed over again without being hooked. The grapnel was then lowered for the tenth time amidst general doubt and anxiety. The cable could be picked up and brought to the surface, but there must be a comparatively smooth sea to enable the cable-crew to handle it, and put the stoppers on, so as to bring it on board ship. On that day they learnt by a boat from the Medway that that vessel had broken the cable and set the buoy adrift, which was felt to be very bad news. On the morning of the 27th the Albany came with the welcome news that she had hooked the cable and buoyed it, doing it by the identical machinery and engine used by the Great Eastern last year; which, moreover, had been partly injured. On the 27th ult. the ship's bow was got on to the buoy, and the old cable was brought on deck, the dynamometer showing, however, that it was only a small piece that had been recovered.

On the 30th the Terrible left for St. John's to take in provisions. The Great Eastern then commenced grappling for the cable on fresh ground, 100 miles to the eastward, in 1900 fathoms. On the 31st the strain on the dynamometer was such that it was apparent that the cable had been hooked. The rest of the story is thus told by Mr. Deane:—

"The Medway signalled to us that she had also hooked the cable and slipped it, the fluke of her grapnel having broken. The strain was temporarily taken off the dynamometer by steaming ahead a little, and when the engines were again stopped, and the ship allowed to resume her position over the grapnel rope, the strain again indicated was 95, showing that undoubtedly the cable was hooked. Away went the pick-up engine again, and worked away all night. By 4.55 this morning, the sea being as smooth as glass, the cable was up to 800 fathoms from the surface, and the strain 7.4 tons. At 5.20 we stopped heaving up, and slipped bight and buoy No. 12. Shortly afterwards we were glad to find the Albany in sight. Captain Batt came on board at eight, and told us that they had come to the rendezvous according to signal, but were disappointed at not finding us. We had felt the force of a strong current sending us about three quarters of a mile an hour to the southward, and so we missed each other. At ten o'clock, the weather still being all that could be desired, after steaming a couple of miles to the eastward, we have again lowered the grapnel, and hope for the best results."

"Sunday Morning, 3.45, Sept. 2.—We have succeeded. Untiring energy and perseverance have conquered all the difficulties. The Atlantic telegraph cable of 1865 has been raised to the surface, and in few minutes afterwards communication established with Valentia. It is impossible adequately to describe the enthusiastic joy which

prevails on board the ship at the present moment. Those men who by their skill have achieved this great success deserve well of their country. As I stated in yesterday's diary, the grapnel went down for the fifteenth time at ten a.m. Save that there was a long swell, as there always is in the Atlantic, the sea was like a millpond; and as we saw the grapnel go down, we could not help remarking to each other that the circumstances under which we were going to make another effort to recover were as favourable as they could be. In fact, it was felt that, if we did not succeed on such a day as this there was very little chance of our succeeding at all. The buoys had all been placed accurately to mark our position, the Medway was signalled to grapple, and we were drifting as fairly for the line of the cable as if our course had been marked by a line on the water."

"From 3.45 p.m., when we began to haul up, the strain on the dynamometer varied from nine to eleven. After dinner we received a signal from the Medway that having hooked the cable she had hauled it up about 500 fathoms. We told her to heave up as rapidly as possible, and, in fact, to break the cable, so that we might have the strain taken off our portion of it and so increase our chance of raising it to the surface. To the eastward the effect would be produced by the bight we lifted yesterday and buoyed on the bight-buoy. The picking up went on with its usual certainty and precision, and by twelve o'clock (midnight) the bows of the ship were crowded, not only by those actually on watch, but by nearly all the hands, who turned out to see the result of this attempt to recover the cable. By this time the boats of the Albany and Medway rowed up under our bows, not so much with a view to assisting in putting stoppers on the cable, but to be there in case any of the men who were lowered in bowlines over the bow should fall into the water during their perilous work. Precisely at 12.50 this morning the cable made its appearance on the grapnel, and, save when the voice of Captain Anderson or Mr. Canning was heard giving an order, one almost could hear a pin drop, such was the perfect silence which prevailed. No excitement, no cheering, as there was on the Sunday when we lifted it before—all was calm and quiet, the men scarcely spoke above their breath. The cable hands, having had the bowlines slipped over them, were lowered down over the bows, and placed huge hempen stoppers on the cable, which was speedily attached to 5-inch ropes, one being placed to protect the eastward side of the bight and the other the westward. This took the best part of three quarters of an hour. It was then found that the bight was so firmly caught in the springs of the grapnel, that one of the brave hands who put on the stoppers was sent lower down to the grapnel, and, with hammer and marlinspike and other implements, the rope was ultimately freed from the tenacious grip of the flukes. The signal being given to haul up, the western end of the bight was cut with a saw, and grandly and majestically the cable rose up the frowning brows of the Great Eastern, slowly passing round the sheave at the bow, and then over the wheels on the fore part of the deck. Even then there was no excitement; but now men were seen to cross the platform and touch the rope, in order to feel satisfied that success had been achieved. The greatest possible care had to be taken by Mr. Canning and his assistants to secure the cable by putting stoppers on between the V wheel and the pick-up machinery, and to watch the progress of the grapnel-rope and shackles round the drum before it received the cable itself. This occupied a considerable time; and now it became evident that ere long the end would be passed down as far aft as the electrician's room. There awaiting its arrival were Mr. Gooch, M.P.; Mr. Cyrus Field, Captain Hamilton, Mr. Canning, Mr. Clifford, Professor Thomson, Mr. Deane, and others. At last Mr. Willoughby Smith, the chief electrician, made his appearance at the door with the end of the cable in his hand; and, the connections having been made, he sat down opposite the instrument. A breathless silence prevailed. Not a word was spoken, all eyes being directed upon the experienced operator, whose expression of countenance indicated the deep anxiety he felt in making the test. At the expiration of some ten minutes he relieved our suspense by stating that, as far as he had then gone, he believed the tests to be perfect; but another minute had scarcely elapsed when he took off his hat and gave a cheer, which, as can be easily understood, was lustily taken up in the room, and, having been heard outside, it was echoed from stem to stern of the ship with a heartiness which every Englishman can appreciate. A rocket or two having been fired from the ship to announce to our convoy that we had succeeded, the crews of the Albany and Medway answered our cheer enthusiastically."

Mr. Canning at once sent a message to Mr. Glass, the managing director of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, expressing the pleasure he felt at speaking to him through the cable of 1865, and the operator at Valentia telegraphed back his congratulations.

The cable has since been paid out to Heart's Content, the shore end spliced on, and the two complete cables are now in operation.

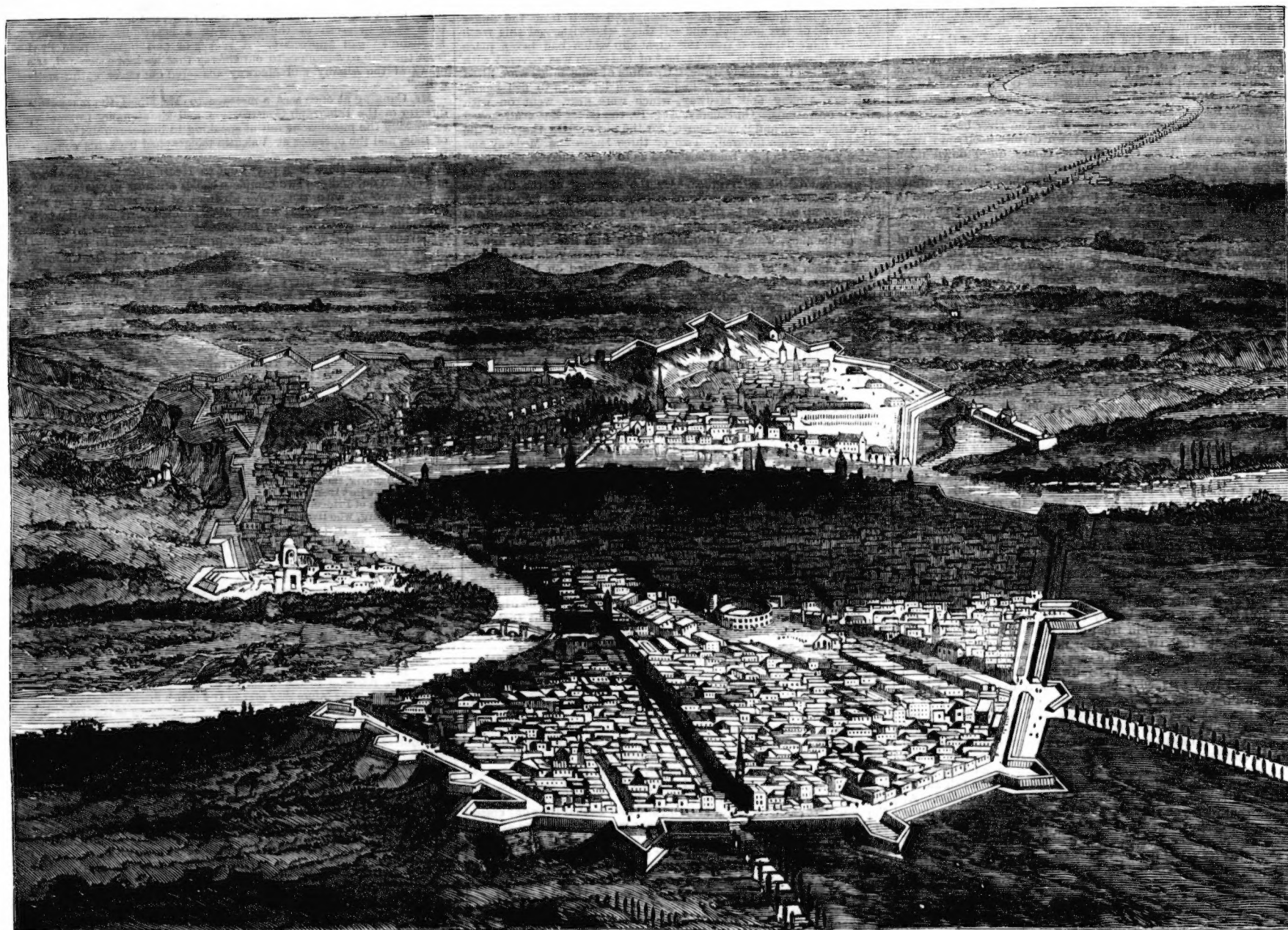
In connection with the above abstract of the record of the recovery of last year's cable, we this week publish portraits of the two individuals under whose superintendence this great work has been achieved—namely, Mr. S. Canning, principal engineer to the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company; and Mr. Clifford, his chief assistant, under whose charge the whole of the paying-out and picking-up machinery was placed. These gentlemen, under whose care not only the work of laying the cable of 1866 but the still more arduous task of raising that of last year has been accomplished, well deserve a prominent place among the heroes of Atlantic telegraphy.

KINGS AND PRINCES "ON THE RETIRED LIST."—A German journal gives a list of deposed princes who now live in different parts of Europe. First there is Don Miguel, deposed in 1830, who resides in Germany, having married a German Princess; next the Count de Chambord, an exile since 1830, residing generally in Austria. With him may be joined the Orleansian Princes, who reside mostly in England. Leopold and Ferdinand of Tuscany, Francis V. of Modena, and Robert of Parma, were driven from their States in 1859. The three first reside in Austria, the last in Switzerland. The following year Francis II. was sent to increase the list of retired kings. In 1862 King Otto of Greece was driven from his throne. King George of Hanover, the Elector Frederick William of Hesse, and Duke Adolph of Nassau have just been added to the list, which may further be augmented by the addition of Prince Couza, who now resides in Paris, and the Prince of Augustenburg, who lives in Bavaria.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—Among the local Acts passed in the late Session was one to enable the Metropolitan Board of Works to make improvements, which it is declared would be of great public utility, in widening and forming new streets in Kensington, and special provisions have been framed for the benefit of the labouring classes, which will doubtless be acted upon in respect to other public improvements. The Act is not to be enforced before the 1st of October, unless a law shall have been passed for the benefit of the labouring classes. Plans of the alterations contemplated have been deposited with the Clerk of the Peace of Middlesex. The compulsory purchase of property required is limited to five years, and the compensation is to be ascertained by a jury or an arbitrator, and the funds may be raised by annuities, which, as well as monies raised by mortgage, are to be charged on the rates of the Metropolitan Management Act. The following provisions have reference to the labouring classes:—"The Board shall, not less than eight weeks before they take in any parish fifteen houses or more, occupied either wholly or partially by persons belonging to the labouring classes, as tenants or lodgers, make known their intention to take 'a' same by placards, handbills, or other general notice placed in public view, upon or within a reasonable distance from such houses, and the Board shall not take any such houses until they have obtained the certificate of a justice that it has been proved to his satisfaction that the Board have made known their intention to take the same in manner herein before required. The Board shall not put in force the powers of this Act earlier than Oct. 1, 1866, unless, in the mean time, the present or any future Parliament before that date shall pass an Act as to the dwellings of the working classes taken for public improvements, or any other public purposes, and the Board shall be subject to the provisions of any such Act, whether or not the same shall be expressly incorporated in this Act. In the event of no such Act having been passed before Oct. 1, 1866, any person who would not otherwise be entitled to compensation, who may be removed under this Act from any tenement, shall be entitled to reasonable compensation from the Board for the loss occasioned by such removal, such compensation, in case of dispute, to be settled by the police magistrate of the district in which the tenements shall be situated; and the Board shall not be at liberty either directly or indirectly to put an end to such tenancy without making such compensation, provided that this compensation shall not extend in any case where the rent shall exceed 8s. per week." The Act is to be cited as "The Kensington Improvement Act, 1866."



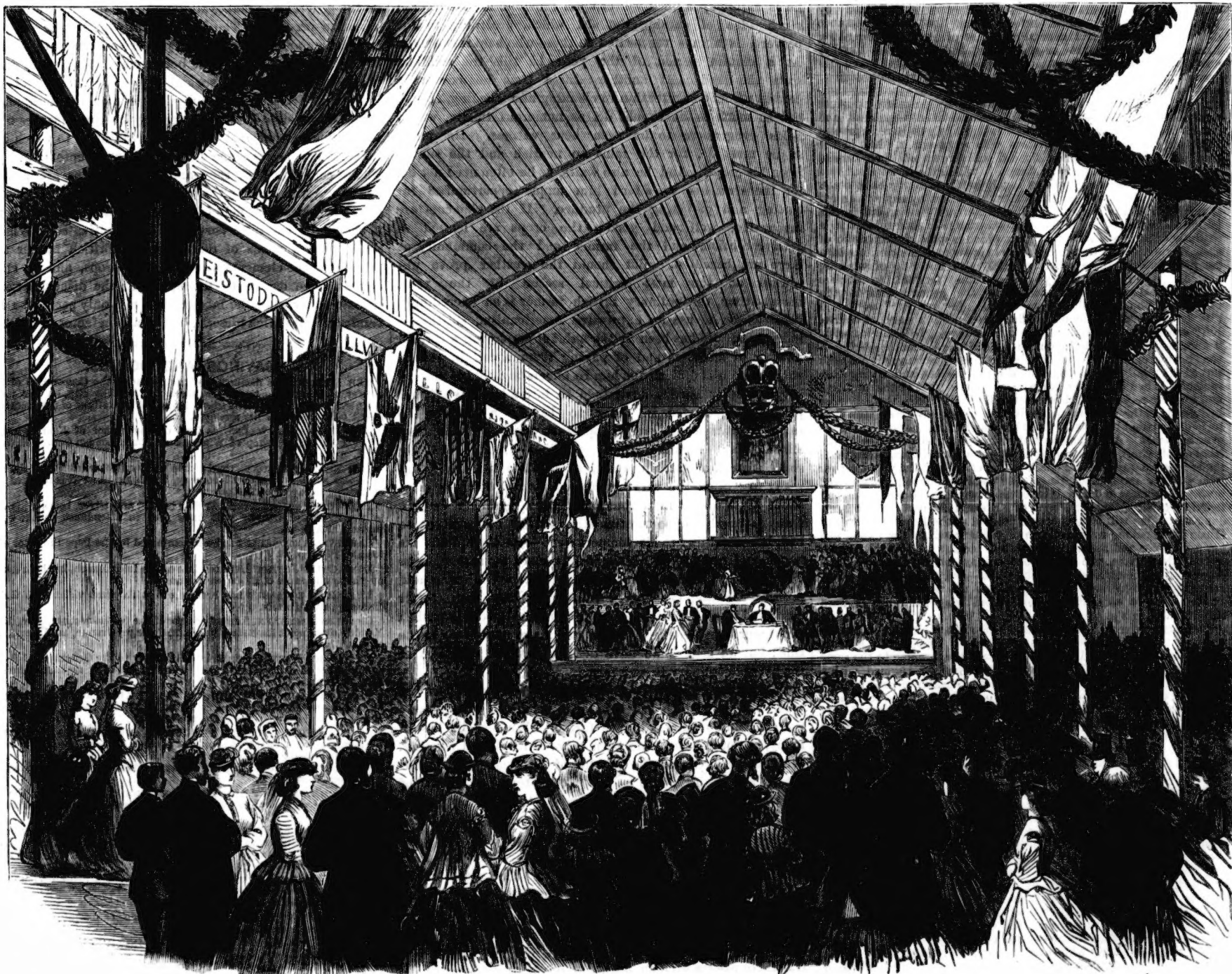
SCENE FROM THE NEW T. P. COOKE PRIZE NAUTICAL DRAMA, "TRUE TO THE CORE," AT THE SURREY THEATRE: EDDYSTONE ROCK—SEE PAGE 167



THE QUADRILATERAL: VERONA.



MR. S. CANNING AND MR. H. CLIFFORD, THE PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF ASSISTANT ENGINEERS OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE.



MEETING OF THE WELSH NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD AT CHESTER.

THE EISTEDDFOD.

"CYMRU fu Cymru fydd" is a saying the propriety of which is undeniable. Perhaps it is rather a pity that universal acquiescence in its past and prophetic truth should be hindered by any philological obstacle; but when translated into the equivalent English—"Wales was, Wales will be"—it cannot fail to draw from every just and generous Briton a hearty approval, both for the fact stated and the aspiration proclaimed. The National Eisteddfod aims at preserving the poetry and music of a race now peacefully merged in the population of Great Britain; and within a recent period it has gone beyond this peculiar purpose so far as to blend with the operations of its annual festival the discussion of that mixture of ethics, physiology, and things in general which is understood by the phrase "social science." There may be some people who look upon this as a mistake; and it will probably strike all as rather a bold step on the part of an antiquarian club or provincial esoteric society to undertake the ventilation of questions which, as they are of general interest, do not derive any special flood of light from being discussed in Welsh. But, be these matters as they may, the Eisteddfod continues to merit the gratitude which is always the more sincere when mingled with the respect due to success. Saxon or Celt, Norse or Gael, owe an ungrudging tribute of thanks, and the support at least of sympathy, to any practical enthusiasts among us whose labour of love it is to keep alive the ancient poetical stock and to encourage new blossoms that may show themselves upon its branches. Perhaps it is difficult for the dwellers in busy centres of conventional life to have any very great faith in the mere existence of a considerable body of Welsh literati, animated by a more than pedantic love of their language and immemorial customs. That such a body, however, not only exists, but is really influential for the purposes it has in view, can hardly be subject of dispute with persons who were in Chester last week, perhaps out of curiosity, or the anticipation of a little sly fun, but who at all events are not partially disposed to favour or flatter the Eisteddfod. One case in point is worth a hundred vague assertions. During one day of the festival, a musical contest, as singularly and strikingly national in character as the warmest Welshman could wish, a choir of about forty male and female voices took a certain prize, and obtained with it the highest praise—praise, in fact, the terms of which, if repeated here, would seem to many readers extravagant and injudicious—from Mr. Brinley Richards, Mr. John Thomas, and Mr. Henry Leslie, who were appointed to adjudicate. Now, of what manner of men and women did this admirable choir consist? Principally of Welsh colliers; and some of those neatly but very humbly dressed girls and women who took part in the most difficult fugues, and who surprised and delighted scholarly musicians by their unerring accuracy of intonation, by their natural taste, and by the most entire freedom from the vulgarity of common, meretricious "style," work daily underground. The programme of the evening concert included a piece to be sung by the choir that won the prize in the morning; consequently, when the time came for the performance of Mr. Brinley Richards's chorus, "Through the day Thy love hath spared us," these were the singers for whom space was cleared at the top of the orchestra, and these were the singers who, probably for the first time, stood before a large audience, whole rows of whom consisted of ladies and gentlemen whose ordinary habits of social life teach them criticism. It was a sight evidently not lost upon the crowded hall, when, the regular chorus of artists in evening dress having vacated their benches, "the choir that won the prize in the morning" took possession, modestly but confidently, of the vacant place. Many persons present had not witnessed the triumph early in the day, and were unprepared to see a band of singers attired in such homely fashion; but even to the great number who were in ignorance of the rare merit attained by the choristers who stood before them, the very appearance of the russet gowns and general plainness of attire had something like an effect of promise or suggestion, and the modest Merthyr choir were greeted with encouraging applause. They sang unaccompanied, and even with greater excellence than in the morning; and, to use an old phrase for want of a better, they took the audience by storm, as they would assuredly take by storm any audience in the world. To say they were encored is a very mild and commonplace way of stating a fact rather likely to have impressed itself on the memory of hundreds who witnessed it. Not in the slightest perceptible degree flushed or thrown off their careful balance by the tumultuous applause, in which the most staid and dignified of the hearers joined as loudly as those in the back seats, the Merthyr choir then sang again, substituting, by request, an old fugue, with Welsh words. They were eminently successful in this performance, displaying a thorough knowledge of their subject in a skilfully delicate and simple manner which is quite characteristic of their singing. Next day, the same choir was again victorious in a competition with three other societies, also made up of working people. When Mr. Henry Leslie came forward to declare the adjudication, he said, addressing the general company in the hall, "You have already pronounced the verdict;" as indeed they had, by vociferously demanding a repetition, though, of course, the "encore" could not, under the circumstances, be complied with. "And," added Mr. Leslie, "you are perfectly right; for the singing of the Merthyr choir is truly admirable, the more especially as it has been put to the proof in a madrigal of a very complex and trying character." When the leader came down to the front of the platform and knelt to receive the ribbon of the Eisteddfod from the lady who had accepted the office of prize-giver, it might have been seen that he had the pale blue scars on his face which mark the pitman wherever he is met. And when he had retired again to his place at the head of his choir, an announcement quite dramatic in its way was made from the presidential chair, to the effect that the young singer who won the important prize of the vocal scholarship, guaranteed by Miss Williams and Mrs. Price of Glantwrch, to the most promising female vocalist between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, was his daughter. She will in due course proceed to the Royal Academy of Music in London, to commence a training which her sweet and powerful voice and naturally good taste bid fair to justify. As for the Merthyr choir, the unanimous opinion of all musical judges present at this festival of the Eisteddfod—and they are neither few nor unapproved by long standing before the world—is, that such another body of vocalists, entirely raised from the ranks of hard toil, nowhere exists.

The competitive episodes demand attention, which they scarcely repay with entertainment; inasmuch as the listening to a song, chorus, or harp solo, well performed, entails the listening to the same song, chorus, or harp solo, badly or indifferently performed, with a reiteration which would be tedious even if invariably marked by high merit. Fancy four or five young ladies coming forward in succession to play the same air, with variations, some of which are unintentional, upon the pianoforte. The old Cambrian tune of "Maldod Arglwyddes Owen," or "Lady Owen's Delight," is of itself very beautiful. But variations! That is quite another thing; and it is four or five times quite another thing when four or five young ladies try who shall make the fewest blunders in stumbling through a rapid manual exercise. The most bearable of the competitions was that same trial for the vocal scholarship. First came the miner's daughter, Miss Francis, who sang "Llwyn Onn," or "The Ash-grove," displaying a voice of rare quality and still rarer promise. She was followed by a young lady who has tried for this valuable prize two or three years in succession, and was very near winning it this time. Then came one or two competitors who had obviously no chance; and, lastly, the song was charmingly sung by Miss Lewis, daughter of Mr. Llwyfo Lewis, himself a singer. When Mr. Leslie gave judgment, he offered a few words of explanation which were well received, as they deserved to be, by the assembly. He observed that in the opinion of his brother judges and of himself the young lady who sang last sang best; there could be no doubt about it; but this was not so much a question of "best" as of "most promising." Had the decision of the judges been put to the vote, a poll would certainly have confirmed the sound proposition thus laid down. Miss Lewis and Miss Walters have left themselves little room for improvement, having developed as far as possible the

powers with which they are severally gifted. The young Merthyr vocalist has all to learn; and she appeared to feel very deeply the serious though kind admonitions which were addressed to her as she received the ribbon.

The other prizes awarded were adjudged with pleasant little speeches and with the occasional throwing in of some happy epigram or punning compliment, for which, together with a practice of simile, the Welsh language is felicitously adapted. The conductors of the Eisteddfod showed great readiness on all occasions when a terse remark was wanted; as did likewise a local historian and celebrated proficient in Welsh literature, Owen Williams by name, a very aged bard. It was to him that the prize of £5 for the best Welsh essay on the ancient mode and rules of Penillion singing, with specimens of different metres in use, was awarded, the judges being Pencerrd Gwalia, Talhaiarn, and Owain Alaw. The prize presented by Lady Taunton, of Treberfydd, for the best pianoforte performance of "Maldod Arglwyddes Owen," before mentioned, was won by Miss Mary Emma Davies. A prize of £2 2s. for the best song, according to certain rules of metre, on the favourite bardic theme of "Hiraeth," a Welsh word not easily translatable, and only very imperfectly represented in English by the word "longing," had to be divided between two competitors, Miss Sarah Jane Rees and another lady. It seemed that the highest merit had been thought to belong to a poem by a third aspirant, which was, however, disqualified by the unfortunate circumstance that the metrical conditions had not been fully observed. Mr. John E. Thomas, F.G.S., who had read an exceedingly interesting geological paper in the "Social Science Section," was adjudged the winner of £10 and the silver medal of the Eisteddfod for the best essay on the Encroachment of the Sea, a subject of immense importance on some parts of the Welsh coast. The prize of £20 and the silver medal for the best poem on "Arthur y ford gron" fell to Llwyfo Lewis, whose bardic name is Llew Llwyvo.

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FARMERS AND CROP-SAVING.

THE ordinary British farmer is not a man of ready or varied resources. His philosophy is decidedly of the rule-of-thumb school. He does things much as his father and his father's father did them. Whether or not he be a man of great faith, he is assuredly a great waiter upon Providence. He has not much idea of earning the aid which, according to the proverb, is always vouchsafed to those who help themselves. At a certain period of the year he tills the soil and sows the seed. At another stated time he bestows a certain amount of attention to cleaning and weeding, though not so much as he should do, as numerous thistly, weedy fields everywhere to be seen bear witness. He waits, as he must do, for the rains to nourish and the sun to ripen his crops. And he also waits, as he often need not do, for the elements to afford him ample opportunities for cutting and gathering the produce. If the elements are favourable, well and good; the crops are housed in good condition, and the farmer and the community at large are benefited. But should the weather prove untoward at the most critical season of the year, harvest-time, the ordinary British farmer is an exceedingly helpless—or, to use an expressive Americanism, shiftless—individual. He has been in the habit of employing a certain number of labourers and of paying them a certain rate of wages, and it is difficult for him to understand that it may be very decidedly for his advantage to hire a larger staff and pay a higher fee in order to be in a position to take advantage of every opportunity the weather may afford for securing the precious fruits of the soil. Instead of watching the signs of the times, and being ready to "catch the varying chances as they fall," he goes about his business in a routine, jog-trot fashion: he lets many favourable opportunities slip; and if the weather be bad, he—according to his temperament—sits down, folds his hands, and rails at the unfavourableness of the season, or he "rampages" about his homestead, scratching his caput, and probably venting the energy that might have been better employed in giving utterance to language more distinguished for vigour than elegance. There are many exceptions to the rule; but we believe we have described a fair specimen of the average ordinary British farmer.

These remarks have been suggested by the nature of the present season, which has been of a nature to test severely the skill and readiness of the farmer. We fear he has in many, if not in most, cases been more or less found wanting. We have now reached the middle of September, and competent authorities assure us that from a fourth to a third of the crops are still in the fields, exposed to all the "pelting of the pitiless storms" that have swept over the country recently; and this not generally because the grain is unripe, but because farmers have not found sufficient favourable opportunities to house it. The weather has lately been far from propitious. That cannot be denied. But has full advantage been taken of all the opportunities that have presented themselves? Has there been no dawdling when there should have been working? Has there always been an adequate force of labourers in the field to make the most of circumstances? and have there been no higgling over wages and studying of false economy when a judicious liberality and free expenditure would have been

real saving? We very much fear that all these evil influences have been at work this year, as they are most years, and that the result is the loss, or damage, of much valuable food.

But there is another point on which it occurs to us that the farmer and the farmer's friends exhibit some lack of resource. And that is in devising means for artificially drying grain after it is cut. The farmer, as we have already indicated, can do little beyond watching progress and preparing for action till crops are ripe; after that, the duty of saving them rests almost wholly with him. Nature has done her part; it is now for the husbandman to play his. When the season is auspicious, his task is simple and easy; but when it is not, would it not be wise to have some resource to fall back upon? To fit grain for housing, after it is cut, it is necessary that it should be exposed for a time to the action of a warm, dry atmosphere; and when such a warm, dry atmosphere is denied naturally, could it not be provided artificially? In other words, might not drying-sheds, sufficiently capacious, and through which a current of hot air could be sent at pleasure, form a part of every well-planned and well-constructed farmstead? It is not for us to go into the detailed arrangements of such a scheme. We submit the idea to those whose business it is to work out such problems, convinced as we are that our notion is capable of being developed into practical shape. Of course, there are difficulties to be overcome; we see several at a glance—such, for instance, as how to construct apparatus on a scale adequate to meet the emergencies of a large farm. But "where there is a will, there is a way." Let the thing be tried, and we doubt not a means of accomplishing it will be devised. Kiln-drying is already practised in various parts of Europe; and though the appliances in use are rude and clumsy, they are better than none. Nature's agents, sun and air, are no doubt the best; but these are not always available, as this season proves. The grain might perhaps be somewhat deteriorated in quality by artificial drying; but certainly not more so than by being left soaking, sprouting, and rotting in the fields.

On this subject of crop-saving we address ourselves especially to the farmer and his coadjutors. The husbandman is chiefly interested in the matter. Every sheaf of grain spoilt upon his holding is a direct loss to him, for which he will receive but slender compensation in enhanced prices; for, the markets of the world being open to the consumer, local losses but slightly affect general rates. Under free trade the deficiencies of one quarter of the world are compensated to the consumer by the abundance of others. A small percentage on the general rate makes all even to the buyer. It is different with the producer. The losses of any particular farmer or any particular locality are the proper concern of that farmer or that locality, and must be borne mainly by him or it. It becomes, therefore, the special duty and interest of each individual farmer to keep a vigilant eye on his work, and to devise all possible means of averting the consequences of unfavourable seasons and other disadvantages to which he is liable. The present age is fruitful in inventors, many of whom complain that they and their designs are not sufficiently appreciated. The wants of agriculture present an ample and a fruitful field of operation. We recommend that it should be carefully surveyed and cultivated. Whoever shall devise a means of rendering the British farmer independent of the elements in saving his crops, and so enable him in some degree to triumph over the disadvantages of climate under which he labours, will not only serve the husbandman and enrich himself, but be a benefactor to his race.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY has declined the invitation of the Corporation of Manchester to inaugurate the Albert memorial in that city on her journey southward next month. The Queen fears that the fatigue of the proceedings might be too much for her strength.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, as lord of the manor of Kennington, has given £500 to the Bishop of Winchester's South London Church Extension Fund.

THE KING OF SAXONY, tired of the cares of government and the result of a war so disastrous to his country, has determined, it is reported, upon abdicating in favour of his son.

THE POPE has sent several medals in gold and silver, bearing his effigy, to the Sisters of Charity who have been in attendance on the cholera patients at Amiens.

CARDINAL ANTONELLI has been nominated by the Pope Protector of the town of Piperno.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE LEFROY, late of the Irish Bench, has been granted a retiring allowance of £3500 per annum.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE has broken out with great violence in Galicia, Hungary, and Moravia.

CHARLES MACLAREN, formerly editor of the *Scotsman* newspaper, died on Monday morning at his house, Moreland Cottage, Grange, Edinburgh, after a short illness.

DR. HENRY NORTON SHAW, late Secretary to the Geographical Society and member of several other learned bodies, has been appointed Consul at Ilay, in Peru.

THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF CANTERBURY have abolished all charges for viewing the interior of their cathedral. Visitors, however, are at liberty to make voluntary offerings to the attendants.

AS THE TRAIN CONVEYING THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES to the north, about a fortnight ago, was passing Usworth, near Newcastle, a pitman, in crossing the line, was killed. His widow, who lives at Usworth, has just received from his Royal Highness a gift of £100, as some consolation for her bereavement.

THE COMMANDER OF THE PRUSSIAN TROOPS stationed in the Elbe Duchies has received orders to reduce the regiments under his command to a peace footing.

A MONUMENT has just been erected in Kensington-gardens (very near to the Serpentine Bridge) to the memory of Speke, the African traveller. It bears the following simple inscription:—"Speke: in memory of Victoria Nyanza and the Nile."

THE SUNDERLAND PEOPLE are about to erect a drinking-fountain to the memory of a local hero known as "Jack Crawford," who nallied the colours to the mast of his vessel during the Camperdown action.

A WEST RIDING DEMONSTRATION in favour of manhood suffrage is to be held on Woodhouse Moor, on the 8th of October.

THE COUNCIL-GENERAL OF THE LOIRE-INFERIEURE has voted 2500*fr.* towards the purchase of the tower and the erection of a monument to Joan of Arc; that of the Loiret, 1000*fr.*; the Var, 500*fr.*; the Council of Savoy, 500*fr.*; and that of Upper Savoy, 100*fr.* for the same purpose.

MR. GUINNESS, who so magnificently restored St. Patrick's Cathedral, in Dublin, is now expending a considerable sum in renovating the ancient abbey of Cong, which stands on his estate on the borders of Galway and Mayo. It is the burial-place of many of the ancient Irish kings.

ADMIRAL TEGETHOFF has received, via New York, a telegram from the Emperor Maximilian congratulating him upon the naval victory off Lissa.

LORD LYON won the St. Leger Stakes at Doncaster on Wednesday, beating Lord Allesbury's Savernake by a head after a close contest.

THE MUSICAL FESTIVAL of the three choirs of Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford has this week been held in the first-named city, and has been attended with decided success.

AN ASSOCIATION for the protection of poor people who are likely to be evicted by the metropolitan improvements was inaugurated on Wednesday. It was stated that the various schemes now on foot would destroy the dwellings of 160,000 persons of this class.

MR. GLADSTONE, in replying to an address presented to him at Salisbury, on Friday week, delivered an eloquent speech, in which he vindicated the policy and conduct of the late Government in reference to Parliamentary reform.

A LARGE QUANTITY of THE WHITING manufactured at the chalk-quarries on the banks of the Thames is exported to America, to be afterwards returned mixed with flour.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has just given orders to commence works for the deepening of the Seine between Paris and Rouen, so as to secure a uniform depth of about two metres (6½ ft.). The expense of these works is estimated at 6,500,000*fr.*

THE CROSS of THE LEGION of HONOUR has been conferred on M. Chassepot, inventor of the breech-loading rifle just adopted for the French army, and which was recently the object of successful experiments at the Camp of Châlons.

THE MAGNETIC POLARISATION of H.M.S. Northumberland, arising from her having been built north and south, has been destroyed by reversing that position and then demagnetising her by means of two of Grove's batteries.

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION of ale, beer, hops, and all articles used in the preparation of malt liquors, is announced for the 10th to the 15th of October, at Dijon, in the rooms of the Townhall. Exhibitors are to send in the various articles before the 8th of that month.

THE PARISH of ST. PANCRA'S is in a state of insolvency. It owes £12,074 to the Police Commissioners—a debt which, we presume, has been accumulating for some time—and there is an estimated deficit of £4078 in the parochial balance-sheet for the half-year ending with the present month.

MR. NOBLE'S STATUE of SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, the Arctic explorer, has been erected in Waterloo-place, at the side of the Athenæum Club. Mr. Foley's statue of Lord Herbert of Lea, which is to be placed in front of the War Office, Pall-mall, has been successfully cast in bronze.

THE REV. LEICESTER LYNE known as Brother Ignatius is to be ordained as a priest of the Church of England, the Primate and the Bishop of London having, it is reported, agreed to such a step, under certain conditions on the reverend gentleman's part. Mr. Lyne will, in all likelihood, commence his priestly labours in the poorer neighbourhoods of Shoreditch.

THE FIRST ARRIVAL of NEW FOREIGN HOPS took place on Monday morning, in five bales of Bavarians of very superior quality and of fine colour. They were consigned to Messrs. Baker, White, and Morgan, London-bridge, and by them sold to Messrs. Gardner, Godden, and Co., of the Ash Brewery, Kent, at £10 10s. per cwt.

CARDINAL CULLEN has addressed a letter to all the Roman Catholic bishops of Ireland calling upon them to appoint a day on which simultaneously to offer prayer for the Pontiff in his present distressing situation.

THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY have already laid sixty-three miles of steel rails on their system, and the work of relaying with steel instead of iron is to be continued. On the Great Northern steel rails have also been laid at all the principal stations and on the steepest inclines of the railway.

MR. KEITH JOHNSTON and other gentlemen engaged in the exploration of Palestine have discovered at Tell Hum the ancient temple of Capernaum, nearly if not quite entire. The interest of this discovery is very great, since there is no other building in the present day which can be identified as one of those in which Jesus actually was.

A DREADEFUL FIRE broke out on the evening of Aug. 28 in the town of Bodenstadt, in Moravia, which was almost entirely reduced to ashes, some 400 houses, with the castle, the parsonage, and the two churches becoming a prey to the flames. Six persons are known to have perished in the flames. The next day the conflagration was not extinguished.

A MIDSHIPMAN belonging to H.M.S. Victoria, moored in the roadstead of Zante, being on shore, and having lost himself in the night, applied to a police agent to guide him to the shore. The man, instead of doing so, led him into an ambush, where he was robbed; fortunately he had not much money about him. Among the thieves were two other members of the police force.

SIR FREDERICK MADDEN has resigned the keepership of the manuscripts at the British Museum. From about the year 1826, when he might be seen in the old painted reading-room of Montague House, transcribing for Mr. Petrie materials for the "History of Britain," he had been connected with the Museum. He is likely to be succeeded by Mr. Edward Bond, the keeper of the Egerton MSS., an archaeologist of equal standing.

THE GENOA COURT of APPEAL has just given judgment in an important case. The registrar of that town had refused to sanction the civil marriage of a priest. His refusal had been validated by a lower jurisdiction, but that sentence has now been quashed, and the principle solemnly affirmed that priests can legally depart from their vows of celibacy.

THE USE of TELEGRAPHY is rapidly increasing, and Messrs. Reuter have, for their own service only, found it necessary to lay a new submarine cable from Lowestoft to Norden, a well-known Hanoverian port, well situated for Continental communication. The submersion of the first portion of the cable was successfully completed on Monday afternoon.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE has appointed Nathaniel Lindley, Spencer Percival, and Francis Henry Bacon, Esquires, all of the Equity Bar, to be the revising barristers for the metropolitan districts for the ensuing registration. The metropolitan revising barristers have ever since the passing of the Reform Act been appointed exclusively from among the members of the Equity Bar.

THE STANDING ARMY of SWEDEN, which has hitherto consisted of about 50,000 men, is to be entirely reorganised, in order to increase its effective strength. Switzerland is also about to introduce a reorganisation into her army; Austria is already engaged on a similar task; and part of the French press urges a reorganisation of an army which has hitherto been regarded almost as a model for that of other nations.

MR. BRIGHT has accepted an invitation to a banquet at Rochdale some time in October. It is expected that Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone will be present. The hon. member for Birmingham, in accepting the invitation to the Dublin banquet, says he is not confident that his visit to Ireland will be of any service; but, as others are of opinion that something may be done with a view to wiser legislation for both countries, he has not felt himself at liberty to refuse the invitation.

A PARIS JOURNAL, the *Liberté*, on Monday, contained a paragraph of which the following is a literal translation:—"The death is announced of Lord Northbrook, formerly Chancellor of England, at the age of seventy. The real name of this personage was Sir Francis Baring; he was a grandson of the founder of that opulent banking dynasty. Why should a man able to call himself Baring not have been contented with the name he derived from his father?"

CAPTAIN KINNEAR was fishing in the Don, the other day, when he heard a scream in the mill lade behind him, and saw an infant disappearing in the water; he plunged in, and caught the infant in his arms. Throwing it over his arm, he found, to his great surprise, another child clinging to it—a little girl hanging insensible to her brother. It was with much difficulty that the preserver of the poor children clung to the steep wall of the mill lade till assistance arrived.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN WALES.—A serious railway accident happened last week in Carnarvonshire. An excursion train left Port Madoc for Carnarvon, and conveyed about 800 persons to a great gathering of the A-association of Calvinistic Methodists of the latter place. On leaving Carnarvon on their return, the engine and tender, by some mismanagement of the points, ran off the line and were upset, the passenger carriages being, by the momentum, propelled over them. Five persons were killed on the spot, and several others seriously injured. The line was only just finished, had not been inspected, and the carriages used for the excursion were mere ballast wagons, with boards laid across them for seats.

A CLEVER TRICK.—The Roman National Committee has just done one of the boldest feats on record. It was known that the Neapolitan Bourbons had their central agency in the apartments occupied by one of their number in the Palazzo Valdembrini. The committee wished to lay its hands on the papers of this knot of Royalist conspirators. About ten days ago these Neapolitan nobles, who, like all their countrymen, are addicted to cards, were disturbed in their nightly play by the appearance of Papal gendarmes, who said that they had orders to seize and carry to the police office all papers in the apartment. Prince Pignatelli demurred at first, protesting that there must be absolutely some mistake; but the gendarmes showed the written order from Monsignor Raudi, Governor of Rome, whereupon Prince Pignatelli at once acquiesced in delivering up the papers, and added that next morning he would call on Monsignor Raudi and clear up what he knew must be some extraordinary blunder. Next morning the Prince accordingly went to the Governor, who listened to him with blank surprise. He had never given any such order, no one in his office had given it; the whole proceeding had been an audacious act on the part of the men dressed up as gendarmes. What may have been in the papers so seized we do not know, but strange revelations may be expected. Meanwhile the incident is a characteristic illustration of how things are managed in Rome, though under the twofold protection of a French and a Papal garrison.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

LORD NORTHBROOK, better known as Sir Francis Thornhill Baring, is dead, and Thomas George Baring is now Lord Northbrook, and goes up to the House of Lords. By this elevation the Whigs lose the services of a very useful man of all-work in the House of Commons. Mr. Thomas George Baring is only thirty years old, and he has held office in almost every department of the State. He began his political career as private secretary to Mr. Labouchere, now Lord Taunton, at the Board of Trade. Afterwards he was successively private secretary to Sir Grey at the Home Office, and to Sir Charles Wood at the India Board and at the Admiralty. He entered the House of Commons in 1857, and in the same year he was made junior Lord of the Admiralty. In 1859 he became Parliamentary Secretary of State for India; in 1861 Under Secretary of State for War; in July of the same year again Under Secretary for India; and in 1864, Under Secretary of State for the Home Department. A pushing, energetic man, with considerable business aptitudes, is the present Lord Northbrook; not showy, but exceedingly useful. He generally makes himself master of the subjects on which it is his duty to speak; and, if he does not clearly understand them, he has the tact to make his hearers believe that he does. In short, tact, rather than talent, seems to be the special characteristic of Lord Northbrook, and hence, perhaps, his constant employment. He is a safe man. He can learn much of the business of a department in a short time; make the most of his knowledge, and where he is ignorant can deftly conceal his ignorance. Now that he is a peer, he will probably be made a principal Secretary of State in the next Liberal Government. This is our way. In the House of Commons he was hardly thought to possess weight enough to be a Chief Secretary; but a peerage is always considered to be an equivalent—that is to say, of equal value to much that is required in a commoner. Thus, when Earl De Grey and Ripon was in the House of Commons as Lord Goderich, nobody thought him fit to take high office; but lo! when he came into the possession of two earldoms, he was almost directly made Chief Secretary of State for War—one of the most important State functionaries; and subsequently, Chief Secretary of State for India.

The late Lord Northbrook (Sir Francis Baring), though he achieved a double first at Oxford, was but a mediocre sort of statesman. It is said of him that, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer (1839-41), he was with difficulty brought to understand how it was that, when he increased a tax, he got less revenue. He, poor man, thought that, by adding to a tax, he should, in proportion to the addition, increase the revenue. And, when he found that the produce was less than it was before, he was astounded, and for a time insisted that the officials must have made a mistake. Though he had taken a double first at Oxford, and was Chancellor of the Exchequer, he had not learned that, in taxation, two and two do not always make four, but sometimes only one. It is but fair to say, however, that Sir Francis was not more ignorant than most of his Whig contemporaries. The theory of taxation was not well understood by any of our statesmen then, Sir Robert Peel and his new school of financiers not having yet begun their great financial experiments. Now we all know that by reducing a tax we may, within certain limits, increase the proceeds, but that by increasing a tax beyond a certain limit we shall infallibly reduce the revenue. Sir Francis was Chancellor of the Exchequer only two years; but this short period was quite long enough to show that he was quite unfit for the place. For three years he was First Lord of the Admiralty, but his career there was not brilliant. In short, though he must, I suppose, have been a good scholar, he had none of the qualities and talents of a great statesman; and perhaps he suspected his deficiencies, for after 1852 he declined to take office.

Certain of our political quidnuncs will have it that there is some mystery about the retirement of Mr. Brand from the office of chief whip of the Liberal party. "He is dissatisfied with the policy of the party; he cannot work smoothly with Gladstone," &c.: so whisper our gossips. But I have reason to believe that there is not a word of truth in all this. Mr. Brand, before the division fatal to the Reform Bill and the Government, had announced that he should retire. The plea was ill-health; and, as he was unwell, let this plea be sufficient. There can, however, be no doubt that Mr. Brand has long felt the duties of his office irksome to him and earnestly desired to get rid of them. And no wonder. Everybody who knew Mr. Brand was surprised that he ever took the place: that he has left it astonishes no one. Mr. Brand managed the whipping department of the late Government admirably. I do not believe that it was ever managed better. He made this department respectable, banished from it all trickery, and conducted the business in an open, honourable manner. Let me illustrate what I mean by trickery with an anecdote. Some years ago a Radical member of Parliament, who conscientiously refused to accept favours from the Government, one day incautiously signed a testimonial to the character of a youth who was anxious to get a Government appointment. The testimonial was sent to the Government whip of the day, and he wrote promptly to the member who had signed the testimonial in manner following:—"Dear Sir,—I shall be delighted to comply with your request, and give Mr. So-and-So an appointment. I have the honour to be, &c." Indignant at being thus entrapped, as it were, the signer of the testimonial wrote back at once: "Sir,—I have asked for no situation for anyone. I have the honour to be, &c." Whereupon there came another note: "Dear Sir,—I thought your signature intimated your wish to serve the applicant, and I am pleased to tell you that it at once secured him a situation.—I remain, &c." To this an answer, protesting that the signer of the testimonial never dreamed of applying for a place, was sent, to which no answer was returned. This was what I call trickery; and of such trickery, common enough once, Mr. Brand never could have been guilty. There has been a thousand pounds raised to purchase a testimonial for Mr. Brand. At first it was proposed that nobody should subscribe more than five pounds, but the enthusiasm of the party soon broke down this barrier. "Five pounds!" said a jolly old Liberal, "I shall give fifty, or none." The testimonial will be a piece of plate, and will be presented soon after the opening of Parliament next year.

Mr. Onslow, the member for Guildford, is to succeed Mr. Brand. This appointment has taken the clubs by surprise. Mr. Onslow has never acted as whip, has never held any office, is not much known, and is a politician of ultra-Radical opinions. But he is very active, is in the prime of life, is popular with his friends, and I think it very probable that he will make a reasonably good whip. Of course, he will receive no pay while the Whigs are out; but upon their advent to office he will be patronage Secretary to the Treasury with £2000 a year. Meanwhile he must live by faith. Mr. Onslow comes of what is called a good family; he is nearly connected with Lord Onslow, and is a descendant of Mr. Speaker Onslow, who won the peerage. By-the-way, the motto of the Onslow family is curious; it is "*Festina lente*," "Make haste slowly," or almost literally "On slow."

Mr. Pope Hennessy has turned up again—the irrepressible little man—and in what a new character! When he was in Parliament Mr. Hennessy was the Pope's advocate, and so zealous, that men whispered about—well, one hardly likes to say what men whispered. Let us put it thus. He was as zealous as a well-paid advocate is for his client; but lo! now he comes before us as the zealous and enthusiastic advocate of Louis Napoleon, the Emperor of the French, whom just now his Holiness considers to be his worst enemy, whom he would, if he dared, curse with bell, book, and candle. This is strange; but, if you recollect, Mr. Hennessy last year used to visit the Emperor. Some of us suspected then that he went to the Tuileries as a sort of unaccredited Papal Nuncio; but I remember that when I spoke of this rumour to a Roman Catholic member he flew into a passion, and exclaimed, "He the Pope's accredited Nuncio! Depend upon it, he is accredited only by his own impudence! The truth is," he continued, "when Cardinal Wiseman died, Mr. Hennessy lost the best, and perhaps the only valuable, friend that he had, and now he is looking out for another; that's the simple truth. He's off with the old love and wants to be on with a new." With respect to the conversation with Lord Palmerston in the tea-

room of the House of Commons, as Mr. Hennessy does not say that it was he who conversed with the noble Lord, it cannot be offensive to him when I say I don't believe a word of it.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

A month or two ago, in answering the letter of a lady questioner, I expressed in strong terms my opinion of the usual contributors' lottery system of magazines, and took the liberty of adding a rough model of the sort of thing an editor *ought* (in my opinion) to say to contributors. This month I have received the *Dublin University Magazine*—of which I have no room to say more than that it seems very varied and readable, and that the following Editorial Notice appears to be the regular thing with the *Dublin*:—

NOTICE.—TO CONTRIBUTORS.—The Editor of the *Dublin University Magazine* does not receive MS. articles, except in cases where, being previously informed of their subjects and extent, he has intimated by letter his willingness to do so. In every case where a reasonable probability appears to him to exist that a paper so described may prove available for publication in the magazine a reply will be forwarded.

Bravo, Dublin! I repeat that I have had so little to do with magazines that I had no personal feeling whatever in saying what I did say—but it makes the very heart sick to think what thousands of people must be suffering, month by month, who are in the usual position of "contributors."

The following paragraph, for which the authority of the *Paisley Gazette* is given, has been handed to me, with a request to "be generous and give us a lift." If publishing such an inflated piece of bombast will give the "new monthly" "a lift" I willingly do so:—"The new monthly—Miss Braddon's *Belgravia*—will appear in October with a brilliant staff of writers. Miss Braddon, a host in herself will lead off with a serial novel, 'Birds of Prey,' which will doubtless sustain the high character gained by the author of 'Lady Audley's Secret' and the 'Lady's Mile.' Mr. Winwood Reade will be there with an article on African Discovery; Walter Thornbury, the art biographer, song-writer, and general litterateur, will be there; with Percy Fitzgerald, whose lives of Laurence Sterne and Charles Lamb are standard works; and R. W. Buchanan, the rising poet, the author of 'Undertones,' whom we like all the better because he hails from the neighbouring city, our 'suburb' of Glasgow; and Mortimer Collins, the graceful lyrical writer; and probably, too, one or both of those accomplished novelists Anthony Trollope and Whyte Melville; and George Augustus Sala will give his ready, rapid, racy pen to the tempting pages of *Belgravia*. Besides, all the interest of this new magazine will not centre in the letterpress, excellent though that be, for *Belgravia* will bring pencil as well as pen to its support, and will be largely illustrated. We are entitled, then, to look on the starting of this new magazine as a new phase in periodical literature; and look forward with pleasure to the opening days of mellow October, which will bring into being Miss Braddon's *Belgravia*."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

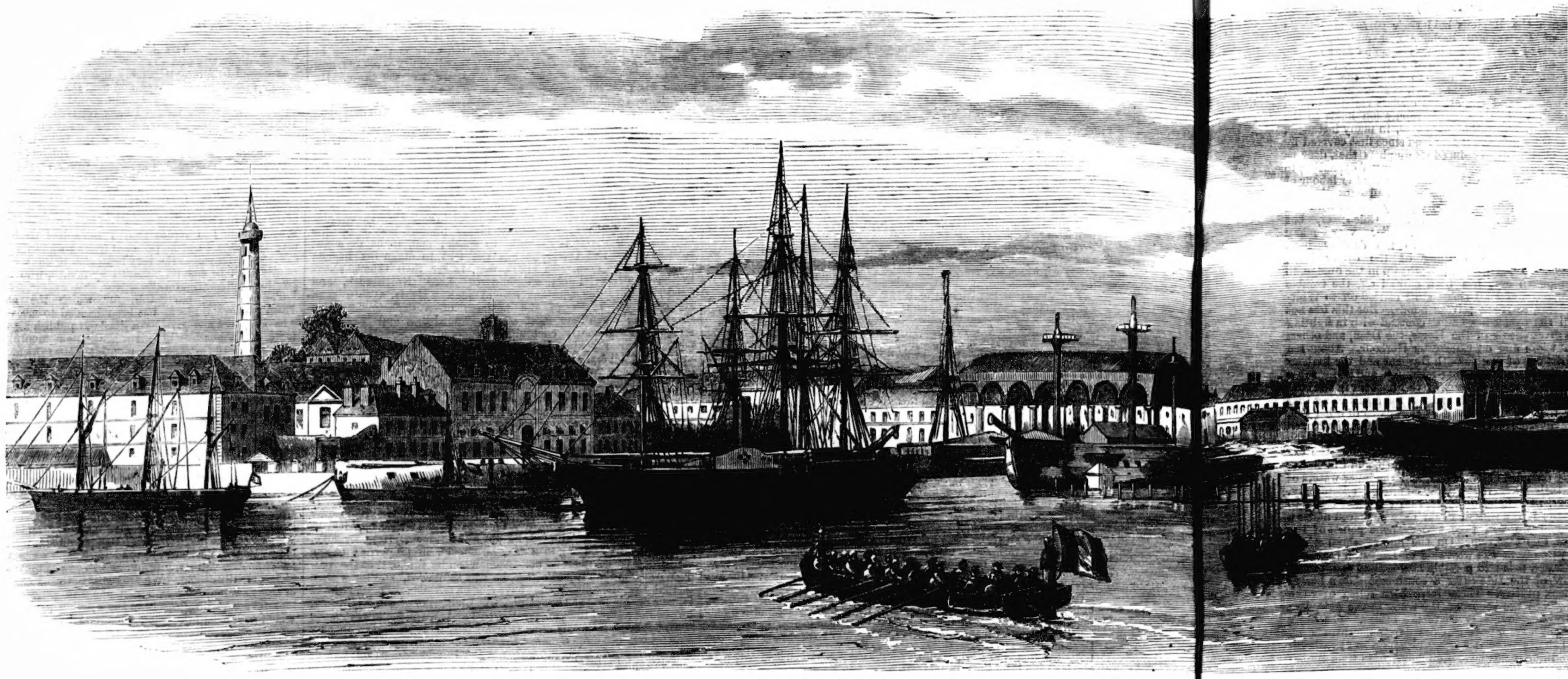
On Saturday last Miss M. Oliver inaugurated her season of 1866-7 at the NEW ROYALTY most successfully. The National Anthem was sung; the comedietta of "The Cozy Couple" was performed; but, as I saw neither of them, I cannot pronounce on the vocalisation of the one or the acting of the other. During the recess the house has been entirely redecorated, and it is now a very handsome as well as a very comfortable little theatre. The company has received several additions since last season; and, *per contra*, there are some faces which we miss. The troupe now consists of Mesdames Leigh Murray, Rosina Rance, Ada Taylor, Lindley, Anne Bourke, and Evans; Messrs. Stephens, Wyndham, Russell, Fairfield, and Danvers. The chief attraction of the evening is the burlesque, by Mr. R. Reece, who has chosen for his subject Sir Walter Scott's poem of "The Lady of the Lake," "plaid in a new tartan"—to quote the playbills. There is a great deal of what is called "go" in Mr. Reece's writing; and, though his dramatic construction is far from faultless, it cannot nor should not be denied that he is a daring and ingenious punster and a capital parodist. The songs and dances were encored after the usual manner on first nights; and the appearance of Miss Oliver as Ellen was the signal for a long storm of plaudits. Indeed, the directress was "ovated," as they say on the New York side of the Atlantic. The burlesque was spiritedly acted by Miss Rosina Rance as James Fitzjames, Mr. Russell as The Douglas, Miss Annie Bourke as Moline, and Mr. Stephens as the Bard. Needless to say that Miss Oliver was fascinating and silver-toned, as usual. Nor should I forget to remember some very good scenery by Mr. Cuthbert. One of the best "bits" in the burlesque is a message sent to James V. of Scotland by Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, by the Atlantic cable. I can congratulate Miss Oliver on her opening night, and also on the address which she improvised so charmingly.

There is a reason why a prize drama should not ordinarily be successful; for skilful, practised dramatic writers can always command their market without hazarding their manuscript to the chances of a competition, which include that of incompetency or error on the part of the judges. But the new piece, "True to the Core," produced at the SURREY THEATRE, is a real success, notwithstanding that it is the nautical drama to which the prize of £100 bequeathed by the late Mr. T. P. Cooke has been awarded. The period of the action is that of the attempted invasion of England by the Spanish Armada. Martin Truogold, a Devonshire pilot, is entrapped, on the eve of his marriage, and carried off by a Jesuit and his fellow-conspirators, to steer the Spanish Admiral into Plymouth Harbour. He refuses; but when his bride is threatened with torture he pretends compliance and wrecks the vessel on the Eddystone Rock. [The illustration represents the scene in which, while upon the reef, Martin is compelled to protect his life and that of his wife from the violence of the survivors of the wreck.] The piece is mounted splendidly. The dresses and scenery have been most carefully studied—that of Mr. Marston, especially, reminds one of some of Holbein's pictures. The play is well written and well acted, full of incident and of novel effects. Miss Pannecourt and Mr. Edgar had two capital bits of character-acting, and made the utmost of them. Mr. Creswick's make-up as the youthful pilot was really a clever piece of stage illusion, and his performance of the character throughout was rather that of a *jeune premier* than of an established tragedian. Here and there faults might be observed by the captious and fastidious; but these were of a kind easily to be amended after a first representation. To enter into further details might probably tend to lessen the enjoyment of the reader should he feel inclined to go to see the piece, which I heartily recommend him to do.

THE success which the North London Collegiate School has achieved in the Oxford local examinations of the present year reflects great credit upon the Rev. W. Williams, the head master; for from the official list it appears that his pupils obtained the first place in first-class English, the first place in first-class languages, the first place in first-class mathematics, and the first place in first-class aggregate, besides six other first classes.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The Registrar-General's weekly return of deaths in the metropolis up to the 8th of September shows a continued and progressive decrease in the mortality from the prevailing epidemic. The deaths from cholera in each of the last six weeks, commencing with that ending Aug. 4, have been 1053, 781, 455, 265, 198, and 167; and from diarrhoea, 354, 264, 194, 129, 128, and 132. Thus in the latter form of the epidemic the deaths in the last three weeks have been nearly the same. In the east districts the weekly deaths by cholera have fallen in six weeks from 916 to 74; in the south, from 47 to 39; and in the rest of London, from 90 to 44. This return contains some interesting statistics as to the districts of West Ham and Stratford.

THE HARVEST.—The weather has been exceedingly fickle and inclement this week in the eastern counties. In the fens there is still some quantity of corn abroad. A gloomy letter from Newmarket observes:—"This has been the most fickle and difficult weather for harvest since 1860. Corn has been got up by 'snatches,' as it is termed; and although some of our farmers have finished their harvests, many acres of wheat in the neighbourhood of Thurlow are yet to be cut, while a great extent of land is covered with shocks of wheat and mown barley and oats, which are literally spoiling from the incessant rains. Fine crops of both wheat and barley are sprouting, and will doubtless turn out much discoloured and only fit for cattle feeding. The labouring classes will be immediately affected by the protracted harvest, as the loss of time occasioned by the wet weather will reduce their earnings to about ordinary day wages."



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GRAND CHARIOT-RACES AT PADUA.

IN spite of the distresses which are the certain results of war, even when the real conflict has proceeded no further than one battle, such as that of Custoza, the Italians are ready to inaugurate the proclamation of peace by the usual rejoicings; and Padua has been the scene of the most demonstrative jubilation, for the presence of King Victor Emmanuel in the old city was a good reason for festivity, apart from any other causes, and not a day has passed without some special event in the way of a fête or a show. These are the public festivities; but there have, notwithstanding, been some very threatening private grumblings; and severe politicians at Florence and at Milan, girding against the indignity

of still receiving their country as a gift from the hand of an intermediary Power instead of wringing it from the usurper, whisper with hated breath against their own Government, and hint that the best thing that could happen to the Re Galantuomo would be abdication. These things are not heard of openly at Padua, however, though they are spoken boldly at Milan, and a bird of the air may have carried the tidings to the King. At Padua all has gone merry as a marriage bell—the bell which celebrates the reunion of Venetia to Italy and the anniversary of the true wedding of Venice to the Adriatic. Poor Venice! she is miserably reduced, and her oppressors have left her in such distress that it will be long before she recovers; and the people of the City

of Palaces may starve before their Italian visitors come to their relief.

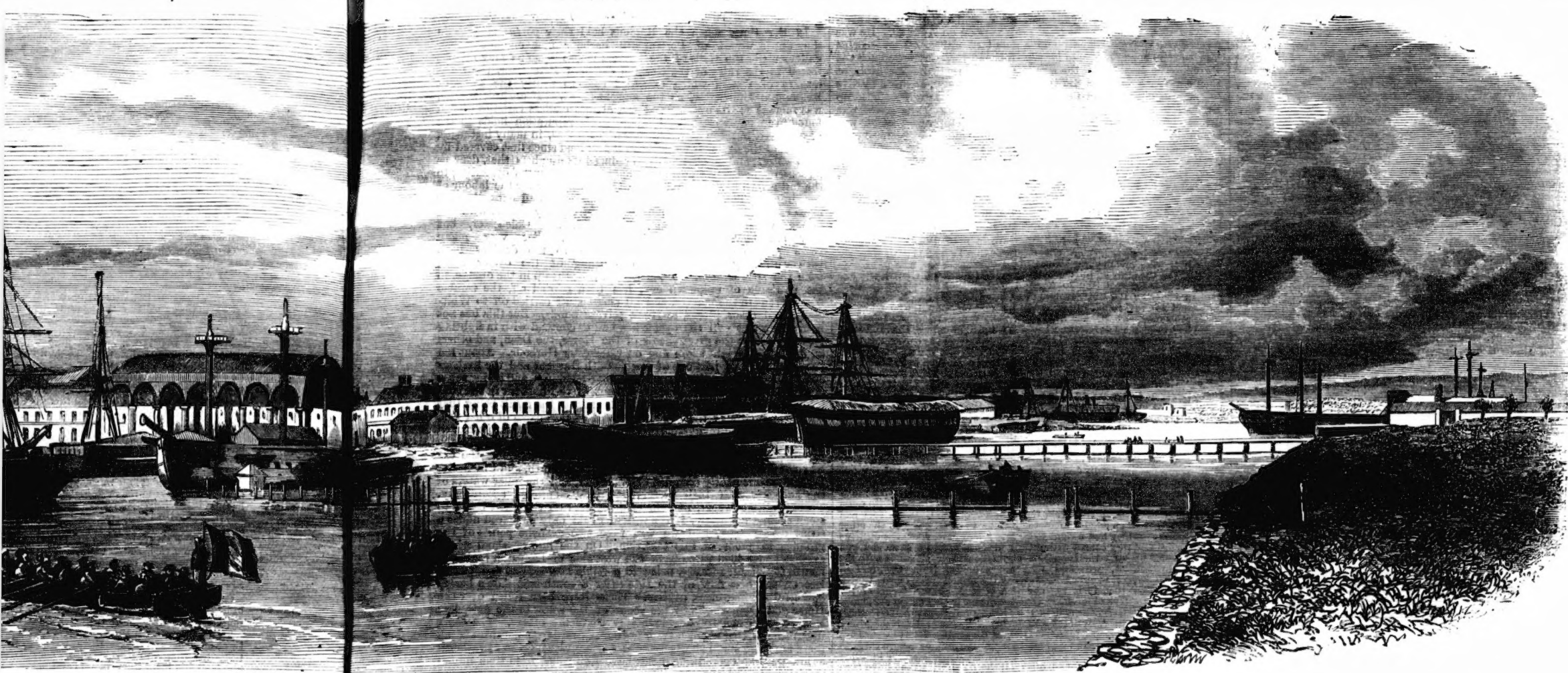
In Padua, during the Royal visit, there has been no want of visitors. Beds were unobtainable, and there was nothing remaining to the late traveller but to walk about the city, making believe that he was not a homeless vagabond. All the porters, loungers, loafers, and general idlers had mounted the Italian tricolour, and, in the intervals of their business, grunted or shouted "Viva Italia!" or "Viva Garibaldi!"

His Majesty the King was lodged in the Great Place, and the entire frontage of the rooms he occupied was hung with crimson velvet and gold lace. In the principal streets the inhabitants had

likewise testified their sense of the festal by hanging their carpets out of the windows. They might have imagined that all Padua had got about to be sold up; but the general effect of the tapestry was undeniably pleasing. Early in the morning girls were afoot—barefoot, be it understood—at the button-holes of every passer-by. Tapes, little inferior in unpleasantness to turn cartwheels and the ragged girls who sell flowers in the streets. But an Italian flower-girl! she must be seen from every point of view, full of poetry, witching sentimentality. Only consider Lord Lytton's Bl



GRAND CHARIOT-RACE AT PADUA IN HONOUR OF KING VICTOR EMMANUEL.



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King was lodged in the Great Place, and the ne rooms he occupied was hung with crimson In the principal streets the inhabitants had

likewise testified their sense of the festal nature of the times by hanging their carpets out of the windows. An uninitiated person might have imagined that all Padua had got the brokers in and was about to be sold up; but the general effect of this variegated display of tapestry was undeniably pleasing. Early in the mornings the flower-girls were afoot—barefoot, be it understood—and made fierce lunges at the button-holes of every passer-by. These bold wenches are nuisances, little inferior in unpleasantness to the ragged boys who turn cartwheels and the raggeder girls who sell cigar-lights in London streets. But an Italian flower-girl! she must be, from the romantic point of view, full of poetry, witching sentiment, and all that kind of thing. Only consider Lord Lytton's Blind Girl in the "Last

Days of Pompeii." What exquisite songs she sings! how we sympathise with her when her brutal mistress whacks her with leathern thongs! Alas! were the truth known, probably that Pompeian blind girl was a slipshod slut who didn't comb her hair, and bored the life out of Glaucus and Sallust and the young Pompeian nobility to buy her stale bouquets.

There is always some touch of melancholy in the gala decorations of those very old cities. It is like an ancient Princess appearing in her state dress at the court of the ruler who has superseded all that the dress itself recalls. Even that great market-place and the seven magnificent gates seem to bear no ornaments that can belong to this utilitarian and progressive period. How can a triumphal arch,

or a few banderolles, and ribbons, and flowers add to the majesty of the San Giovanni, Savonarola, or Falconetto? Even the Palazzo della Ragione, the great townhouse which occupies one side of the market-place, is so complete in itself that it cannot but suffer from any further decoration than a few flecks of colour and a bright awning here and there. It has its own ornaments in the paintings of its inner walls and all the luxuriant details of its architecture. What can Padua have to do with the modern notions of embellishment? Padua, that was founded by Antenor just after the fall of Troy? Padua, which having been sacked by Alaric and Attila, survived the decline of the Empire? Padua, whose latest modern restorer was Charlemagne, and its latest local rulers the Carraras



GRAND CHARIOT-RACE AT PADUA IN HONOUR OF KING VICTOR EMMANUEL.

who dominated there till 1465? And now the wheel has been turned once more. But a few days since, and the Austrians were here. Legions of white-coated phantoms were stalking about the halls, no more in this delicious land. The Tedeschi really liked Italy—the country, the blue sky, the soft climate, the golden groves of citron, the purple vines, the mountains and the lakes—the ices, the macaroni, the vino d'Asti, the picture galleries and palaces, the cafés and the operatic music. They liked the Italian ladies very much, indeed; the only hitch was that the Italians did not like them. Yet, in this lachrymose age, when everybody is blubbering about something, we ought to squeeze out a tear for the Tedeschi. "Laissez-moi pleurer cette race morte," said M. Victor Hugo of the Bourbons, taking out his pocket-handkerchief and weeping bitterly, while all France was clapping its hands for joy to think that the Bourbons had been kicked out. In the cafés of Padua there are niches which of old time contained the highly framed and glazed lithograph effigies of the Kaiser Francis Joseph and his pretty Kaiserin; and now, in these niches, in lieu of their Imperial, Royal, and Apostolic Majesties, are seen the burly physiognomy and incredible moustaches of Victor Emmanuel side by side with a most ungainly-looking individual in a red flannel shirt, known by the name of Garibaldi.

However, if Padua can do nothing which will not, after all, give us some sense of incongruity in the way of decoration, she can at least revive the antique in her festivals; and the occasion represented in our Illustration was one of the recent attempts to maintain her classical character. Most of us know what an Italian, or at all events a Roman, horse-race is like in modern times. The animals run without riders, which is an admirable arrangement for both parties, although the leaden balls mounted with sharp spurs which are suspended from the sides of the *barberi* are quite sufficient incentives to keep them going, even without the aid of the diabolical noises made by the *Trasteverini*.

The Corso at Padua, however, presented a very different, though by no means a less dangerous, spectacle; for there the old chariot-races were revived, and drivers in classic helmets and Grecian mantles urged on their wild career in a manner worthy of the days of old Troy.

The "great heat" would have been worth a visit to Padua to see, if one could only have seen it with a little less crowding, and could have felt more interest in the winner; but, in the first event, the visitor would have missed the greatest sight of all—that wonderful Italian assembly, with its gay colours, quick faces, flashing eyes, and reverberating cries; and, to have had an overwhelming interest in a race, an Englishman must have a heavy book upon the event—a thing not to be thought of in connection with anything so classical as this contest of charioteers.

CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS.—In the first half of the present year 10,290,000 gallons of home-made spirits have been retained for consumption as beverage in the United Kingdom—namely, 5,652,004 gallons in England, 2,364,203 in Scotland, and 2,269,599 in Ireland. This is an increase in each of the three kingdoms over the quantity in the first half of 1865, and a still larger increase over the quantity in the first half of 1864. The increase in Ireland over the corresponding period of last year is nearly 300,000 gallons. In the first six months of 1866, 1,324,874 proof gallons of brandy imported from beyond seas have been entered for home consumption here, and 1,932,851 proof gallons of rum; and these quantities also show an increase over those of the first six months of the two previous years.

THE RHENISH FRONTIER OF FRANCE.—Mr. Pope Hennessy, in a recently-published pamphlet, relates the following conversation with Lord Palmerston:—"It may not be uninteresting to mention the latest views upon the Rhinish frontier of that experienced statesman who signed the warrant for consigning Napoleon I. to St. Helena, and who, nearly half a century after, assisted with all his influence in restoring the French empire under Napoleon III. For the perfect accuracy of the following conversation the author can vouch. It was the habit of Lord Palmerston to converse often unreservedly in the tea-room of the House of Commons with political opponents—great leaders as well as humble privates—whom he was not likely to meet at Cambridge House. Speaking in the summer of 1863 to one of the rank and file of the Opposition, he said, 'I hear from Paris that the Emperor has been talking to you again about Poland. Do you know what he really wants?' 'I suppose,' was the reply, 'he wants you to keep the engagements which England shares in common with France, and which Lord Russell has in his despatches again and again—' Don't quote Lord John's despatches,' interrupted the Premier; 'let us talk sensibly; don't you know the Emperor only wants the Rhine? Has he not been speaking about it?' 'I really know nothing of the kind,' said the other. 'The Emperor is a man of business. He speaks always of the matter in hand, and he is not very likely to waste his time talking to me on an abstract question of remote politics.' 'Ah!' replied Lord Palmerston, 'your favourite Poland is far more abstract and remote, even at this hour, than the Rhinish frontier.' 'But, supposing so,' rejoined the other, 'is it possible to see any such benefit to England in keeping the Rhinish frontier from France as would make you oppose its restoration?' 'Certainly not,' said the great Minister, 'certainly not; but there is a vast difference between opposing and encouraging. It would be insanity for us to oppose that which the French have such a natural desire to accomplish, and in which we have not the smallest direct interest one way or the other; but there are good reasons also why we must not do anything now to encourage them.' He returned to his seat in the House without saying what those reasons were."

THE SENSITIVE PLANT.—Dr. George Sigerson writes as follows to the *Athenæum*:—"Some months ago it occurred to me that the motion of the folioles of the sensitive plant, on being touched by the finger, might be due to the transmission or interchange of electricity between the two points in contact. Impressed with this idea, I took the opportunity, a few days ago, of putting the matter to the test by using for the purpose of touching the folioles a non-conductor, a steel conductor, and the finger. The experiment quite answered my expectations, as the subjoined letter from my friend, Professor Divers, will testify. The plant, I should state, was in flower, and at this period it is probably more sensitive than at other times. On Aug. 12 I experimented three or four times; and on the 19th I again repeated these trials with a similar result, so that the caretaker spontaneously remarked upon the difference of the effects produced. They were these:—On touching gently, and even lightly pressing, the folioles with glass, they remained as they were; on touching them with steel held in the fingers, or (in other instances) with the fingers, they made their usual movement. Again, before I applied these tests a gentleman asked me to explain how it happened that the plant moved more readily when touched by any of his children than by himself. He had seen this take place several times, and could not account for it. I thought it harmonised exactly with my theory, and have since had reason to believe that with the same individual the action will be more evident when he is in a tonic state (if I may use the expression) than when he is exhausted and weary. Although what I have shown goes to prove that the passage of electricity between the points in contact will account for the movement of the folioles in such instance, I do not mean to say that whenever the foliole moves there must be contact with a conductor. For I hold it possible that the plant may be capable of developing within itself sufficient of such force to close its folioles (a seemingly protective movement) if roughly handled. From what I have observed with regard to the sensitive plant, it appeared to me probable that the fly-trap movement of the processes of the *Dionæa muscipula* was due to the same cause. Having gently touched these exteriorly, I was disappointed to find no result produced. Laying the tip of the little finger (in two cases) softly within the expanded processes, I found them to close, whereupon I immediately withdrew it, that there might be no possibility of injury to the plant. I thought the fact almost valueless, as there was no opportunity of testing what would be the action with a non-conductor. However, but a few moments had elapsed when my attention was drawn to a distinctly painful sensation in the ulnar nerve at the right elbow, it being the little finger of the right hand I had used. This sensation persisted for some time, then imperceptibly passed away. I admit that the subject is capable of many more tests and much more development than I can give it in this letter or at this time. It is my intention, however, to pursue the investigation, confident that it will be recognised as one of considerable importance and replete with interest. Now, when the rigid limit drawn by the old naturalists between the animal and vegetable kingdoms has been found untenable, there will be many, I presume, to admit that, *a priori*, there is no absolute reason why individuals of the former kingdom should be endowed with power of generating electricity essentially denied to all members of the latter; and, I believe, will assert the antecedent impossibility of any of those plant-organs, termed 'vessels' and 'ribs,' subserving in a copy of the letter from Dr. Divers, referred to above:—"Charing-cross Hospital, London, Aug. 15, 1866.—My dear Dr. Sigerson,—At your request I am very glad to be able to acknowledge witnessing the interesting fact you showed me at Kew on the 12th of the present month, concerning the sensitive plant. The fact was this, that while the leaves of the plant proved highly sensitive to the slight contact of your finger, or of a piece of steel held in your hand, they were not sensitive to the similar contact of glass. This fact was new to me at the time.—Yours, my dear Dr. Sigerson, very truly, EDWARD DIVERS, M.D."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN NEW YORK.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, accompanied by Secretaries Seward and Welles, General Grant, Admiral Farragut, and a distinguished company, arrived in the city of New York at noon on Aug. 29. He was received by the city officials and a detail of military, who escorted him to the City-hall, where Mayor Hoffman formally welcomed the President in the name of the city, who briefly replied. The President then entered a carriage drawn by six horses, and, escorted by five brigades of military and numerous civic organizations, proceeded up Broadway and Fourteenth-street to Delmonico's. The street was densely crowded with citizens, and every housetop and window was occupied. The enthusiasm displayed on all sides has been seldom, if ever, equalled on any occasion in New York. In the evening the President and his distinguished companions sat down to a dinner given in his honour by the citizens of New York. About 250 guests, specially invited, were present.

In replying to the toast of his health, the President spoke at considerable length. The following are the most important passages of his speech. Having warmly expressed his thanks for the marked honour with which he had been received, he continued:—

We have lately passed, Fellow-citizens, through a long and bloody war, and those who have prominently shared in that struggle are present here to-night. Yes, the army on the one hand (bowing to General Grant), and the navy on the other (pointing to Admiral Farragut), have performed their part in restoring the Government. The Secretary of State has also well performed his part; and so far as the humble individual who addresses you is concerned, and who has been so cordially welcomed by you to-day, he trusts he has done his duty. And I will say, in summing up, that I feel the entire Government has performed its duty. But, though the Government has discharged its duty, the work is not yet done. Yet while we have passed through the shock of battle, while we have been compelled to gaze on fields of carnage and blood, and have so far been successful, there is much more for us to do. I must be permitted, and I hope I shall not trespass on your attention, to remark in this connection that the suppression of this rebellion was for the purpose of preserving the union of these States. The rebellion has been suppressed, and has established the great fact that these States had neither the power nor the right, by force or by peaceable means, to separate themselves from us. Now, this question having been settled by the armies and navies of the United States and one of the departments of the Government, another department of your Government has practically declared and assumed, and carried out the doctrine up to the present time, that the Government is dissolved. We contended for the opposite doctrine years ago, that no State had a right even peaceably to secede. One of the means of peaceable secession was that a State could withdraw its representatives from the Congress of the United States, and that that would be an admission of their right to do so. We, on the other hand, denied that they had a right to do that; and now, when the doctrine is established that they cannot withdraw, and the rebellion is at an end, and the States again resume their position and renew their relations with the Federal Government, we find they are excluded from Congress in express violation of that sacred instrument the Constitution of the United States. We find that it is in violation of the express terms of the Constitution, as well as in its spirit, that States now in this Union are denied representation in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. Now, shall we submit to this? Will the American people submit to this doctrine? Why, if they do, so far as representation is concerned, it is practically a dissolution of the Union. Are we prepared now, after having passed through this fearful rebellion—are we prepared now, after shedding this immense amount of blood and treasure, and after all the calamities that have been visited upon our people, North and South, to continue to exclude these States? Are we prepared to see one portion of this Government arrayed against the other—North against South, and South against North? Are we prepared in this, the most enlightened country on earth, to see brother fighting against brother? Are we prepared to see these fair fields of ours desolated? Are we prepared to see this land again drenched in brothers' blood? Or are we prepared to bring balm from Gilead—a balm healing in its character—to pour into our wounds? The Southern people are our brethren. They are our fellow-citizens; they are part of ourselves; they are one of our bone and flesh of our flesh. They have lived with us and been part of us from the beginning of our Government and the commencement of the rebellion. They are identified with this country, with its history and prosperity, in every sense of the word. Why, it has been asserted that these men's professions of patriotism are doubtful, and that they ought not to be believed. What better evidence can you have of loyalty and devotion to the Government than profession and action? If we have reached the point that all confidence is lost in man, then I tell you that the Government is not as strong as a rope of sand—its own weight will crush it to pieces. Why should a Southern man not be believed? I do not say so because I am a Southern man and first saw the light of heaven in a Southern State, and while I say I am a Southern man I am a Northern man. That is to say, I am a citizen of the United States, and am willing to concede to all other citizens what I claim for myself. Now, the reason why the Southern States demanded secession was that they feared their rights under the Constitution would not be preserved to them. What kind of a Constitution did they adopt? Why, it was, with some variations, the same as that contemplated by the Constitution of the United States. The rebellion has ceased, and when their armies were put down by the army and navy of the United States, they accepted the terms of Government. And what were they? We said to them before the termination of the rebellion:—"Disband your armies, return to your original position in the Government, and we will receive you back with open arms." Now the query comes up, will they be accepted? We do not want to ruin them. I have said this, and I repeat it here to-night, I do not want them to come back into this Union degraded and debased. Are they fit to be a part of this great American family, degraded and debased? Having lost the institution of slavery, the great apple of discord, now, in returning, they take up the Constitution under which they lived before the one they wanted to establish themselves. Where, then, is the cause for distrust? I thought that at one time there was party in the South trying to break up this Government, but now we find a party in the North equally anxious to consummate that end. I am against all those who are opposed to the Union. I am for the Union, the whole Union, and nothing but the Union. General Grant and myself have fought secession on one end of the line, and I tell you we are ready to fight it out on the other. It is a contest and a struggle for the union of the States. The North cannot get along without the South, and the South cannot get along without the North. Further, let me tell you that the interest on the three thousand million of bonds will never be paid except by a complete union of these States. You that fall into this great heresy will reap the same reward. You that do that now will destroy the Government. We should unite the Government and increase the national capacity. . . . Those who differ from me I would bid stand out of the way. The Government is coming together. I will not condemn anyone, but will urge all to go on and do good. If I erred, I trust I erred on the right side. If I pardoned many, it was because I believed they deserved it. The press might vilify, but it cannot change me. I have had enough public life to satisfy anyone, and all that I now desire is the union of the States complete. I would rather live in the affections and hearts of my countrymen than be endowed with any other gift that God can give on earth to man.

Mr. Seward and Admiral Farragut severally spoke briefly. In the course of his remarks Mr. Seward said:—

I confess, Fellow-citizens, that in conducting, under the direction of the President of the United States, the foreign affairs of the country, I have rather a difficult business to manage sometimes. They say that they want a war with Mexico right off; they say that they want a war with Spain right off; I know that they want a war with Great Britain right off for the satisfaction of their Fenian friends. But let me tell them and you, one for all, that I am in favour of all the wars which the nation shall require provided that the nation put itself into an attitude to march to the field with two legs. I do not want it to go into the field with one leg, and so I am a little impatient to have the lame leg made right.

PRUSSIA'S ANNEXATIONS.—A *Mot* of Count Bismarck in his last interview with the French Envoy, M. Benedetti, comes to us from Berlin. "Tell the Emperor," said the Premier, "that the throne of the Prince Imperial has acquired its most solid support in Prussia, now compact!" Here is a new idea, indeed! Prussia guaranteeing the succession to the Bonaparte dynasty. What next? We also learn that the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen has abdicated in favour of his son, a gentleman of Prussian proclivities, and that the Duke of Nassau is on the eve of following his example. At this rate, a month or two will see the whole of North Germany completely Prussianised. Truly, the work goes bravely on.

SETTLEMENT OF THE JOINERS' DISPUTE AT PRESTON.—For nearly nineteen weeks the operative joiners of Preston have been on strike. They sought an advance of 2s. a week upon their wages, which averaged 27s., and a rule restricting the number of apprentices. The masters expressed their willingness to give the advance, but declined to be dictated to with regard to the number of apprentices, and also desired to effect an alteration in what are called "country time and country distances," and a reduction in the "lodging money." This did not meet the views of the men, and the whole of them, 170 in number, struck work. The struggle has been carried on with some animosity on both sides. The masters introduced a number of joiners from Wales, and several of the men who were convicted of intimidation. After many conferences a formal settlement of the dispute has been effected. The masters grant the advance, and also consent to the number of apprentices being restricted; while, on the other hand, the men agree to a modification of the existing rules with reference to country time and distances, and a reduction of 6d. per week in the "lodging money." The settlement is hailed with considerable satisfaction in Preston and the neighbourhood.

OYSTER CULTURE IN ENGLAND.

(From the "Times.")

In the times when the Romans held their *portus magnus* in the upper waters of Portsmouth harbour and anchored their galleys under the walls of the fortress whose remains may now be traced in the ruins of the Norman castle of Porchester, the great estuary of waters which extended east to nearly the walls of Regnum, or Chichester, as the ancient city was afterwards named, was famous for its oysters and the almost endless varieties of fish found in its many creeks and inlets. This reputation holds to the present day, but the improvidence of man has, in many instances, extirpated the oyster from grounds it had held since first covered by tidal waters, and on others has so reduced its numbers that, dear as all sizes of the bivalve now are, from the three months' oysterling to the full-grown native, the dredge will scarcely pay for the labour of working it. The banks surrounding Spithead, and extending for miles east and west of the anchorage, were equally prolific with the inland waters of Langston, Emsworth, and Chichester, but they are now becoming equally barren. For very many years past all the grounds available to the dredger have been ruthlessly worked, and everything of the oyster kind, from the spat clinging to the stones, brought up in the dredge, to the patriarch of unknown age, has been carried off, the eatable portion sent to the market, and all small stuff carried off to Whitstable and other places, to stock private ponds. But this has not been the worst evil the oyster has had to contend with in fighting for existence on the great shoals of the Horse, the Dean, and others on the Isle of Wight shore and off Chichester Harbour. About ten years back certain portions of Portsmouth Harbour and the harbour channel were deepened by steam-dredging-machines, and an immense quantity of black mud was conveyed out of the harbour in the contractors' barges and discharged on these shoals, the result being that the greater part of the oysters, as well as the spawn of other fish, was poisoned, and invaluable fishing-grounds converted into a barren waste. Thus, what with over-fishing by the fishermen and the poisoning of the banks at the hands of the Government, the extensive range of banks outside Langston, Emsworth, and Chichester Harbours were nearly denuded of their fish, and the inner waters of the harbours with their preserved grounds suffered accordingly. There is still, however, abundance of oysters on the outer banks to stock them thoroughly, if the waters could only be placed under a strict conservancy, and we will take two extreme points of the grounds in proof of this assertion. On the line of shore which extends about 4000 yards from the west side of Langston harbour's mouth to Southsea Castle, it is still possible now for one man to collect on the first flow of the tide after a south-east gale a bushel basketful of fine clean oysters. These have been rolled over the Horse and Dean Shoals by the scour of the water in the gale, and where they came from undoubtedly there are others. The other illustration is, that about seven miles out seaward from Southsea beach there are three small shoals lying in a triangular form in 4½ fathoms at low water. These three shoals have been fished from time immemorial, and until the recent scarcity of oysters in the market the dredge would always bring up at the least one half full of oysters, the remainder being clean round boulders about the size of a man's fist. A fisherman hauling up his dredge could tell by the size of the oysters in which part of the shoals he was working without looking at his marks. A few years since these oysters fetched 3s. per tub, but they are now sold at 18s., and the yield per dredgeful has therefore lessened naturally from the overworking of the shoals, but still the banks fill up again with the fish from an inexhaustible source. The collection of spat and oysterlings on public fishing-grounds for laying down in private ponds for growth and fattening has been carried on at Emsworth and Langston, as in a number of other places on our coasts, for many years, but no attempt was made at oyster culture proper until France set us the example. In 1845 M. Carboneau read a paper at a meeting of the French Academy in which he urged the necessity of taking steps to restock the oyster-beds then becoming exhausted. In 1849 Professor De Quatrefages urged the same thing, and the Government ordered M. Coste to report on the subject. In 1855 M. Coste's report was received and published, and in 1861 a second edition appeared recounting the state in which the natural beds had been found and the means taken to restock them. In 1863-4-5 M. Coste's method was introduced, not altogether successfully, at Herne Bay and Southend, by means of companies formed for the purpose, Mr. Buckland in 1865 expressing an opinion that the system of M. Coste, so successful in France, was not practicable in English waters owing to the difference in temperature and the lesser amount of the Gulf stream in the English than in the French waters. In June, 1865, Mr. G. W. Hart, the present manager of the South of England Oyster Company, visited the west coast of France, and inspected the oyster beds at St. Brieux and Ile de Ré, and other places, and came to a conclusion contrary to that of Mr. Buckland. The South of England Oyster Company was immediately afterwards formed, and it is to the proceedings of the company to this date that we wish to draw attention, as very few persons will deny that all facts connected with oyster culture in this country are of interest, and that our knowledge of the subject, which at present is very limited, will be best extended by open discussion.

The company have secured a large space of ground as oyster-beds for the future close to the village of Havant, on the north-west shore of Hayling Island, which will give three beds, of about forty-six acres in all. The defunct Hayling Island Railway has cut off this land from the sea, but sluices have been provided in the railway embankment for necessary admission and discharge of water. These beds are yet, however, incomplete. At the opposite extremity of Hayling Island, at the entrance of Chichester Harbour, the company have made their first great experiment in oyster culture, and their success so far has been most startling, the supply of spat in their breeding lake having proved almost unlimited, and this, too, at a time when there is a universal failure of spat at Whitstable, Herne Bay, Poole, and other places on the English coast. The entire area of the ponds, or *parcs*, with which the company have made their first experiment does not exceed ¾ acres in extent; but on this the systems pursued at Lake Fusaro, in Italy, and Ile de Ré, in France, have been tried with the great success we have stated, and have also been attended by some very curious particulars. The plan of operations followed by the company's manager was the formation of two *parcs*, one on the Italian and the other on the French plan, connecting both by a gateway for the overflow of water from one to the other, the water finding admittance at spring tides from the entrance to Chichester Harbour, through a sluice in an artificial wall into the Lake Fusaro bed, thence overflowing through the gateway to the Ile de Ré beds or *parcs*, and overflowing thence to the harbour by another properly-constructed outlet in the outer walls. Near the end of the intermediate gateway, and close to the Ile de Ré beds, a pump worked by wind-sails throws a portion of the water running from the Fusaro bed into a large slate tank, which may be utilised as a lobster-feeding tank if requisite, the water flowing thence through slate hatching-beds in a fish-house, and finally escaping, in common with the rest, from the gateway into the Ile de Ré beds. Now, the distinction between the two systems of Lake Fusaro and Ile de Ré, as carried out by the South of England Oyster Company at Hayling, is simply this:—1. The Lake Fusaro bed is one sheet of water, which is, as a general rule, still water, the outer waters of the Channel only finding admittance during spring tides. 2. The old oysters intended for spatting are laid down on shingle, with closely-wattled hurdles suspended over them, attached to stakes, and lying parallel with the bed of the lake. The hurdles are the "collectors" of the spat.

The Ile de Ré beds are one sheet of water like that of the Fusaro *parc*, and are laid entirely with shingle, but the water is constantly running through them, gently, yet never still, like the water in the Fusaro *parc*. The "collectors" of the spat are tiles laid on the oysters and the beds, the water in the Ile de Ré being also divided into a number of beds, all most carefully formed, and separated each from the other by pathways. The depth of water both in the Fusaro and Ile de Ré *parcs* is from 2 ft. to 3 ft.

The beds were prepared somewhat later than had been intended, so that it was the latter end of April before 50,000 oysters were laid down on shingle on what we will continue to term Lake Fusaro, and when the right time came the hurdles were placed in positions over them. The sides of all these hurdles nearest the oysters are now covered with young oysterlings, the largest of which are fully as large as an old sixpence, the smallest the size of a pinhead, and the average of the greater number exceeding a silver fourpenny piece. These hurdles have since been removed from the Fusaro to the Ile de Ré beds, the former at present thus becoming the breeding and the latter the rearing and fattening *parcs*. Since the removal of the hurdles the young oysterlings have increased wonderfully in size. The removed hurdles have been replaced by "bavins" of sticks and brushwood, and the *parc* is now full of new spat. There are two or three remarkable circumstances connected with the spatting of the oysters in this *parc* that are deserving of notice. It was an unvarying feature of all the hurdles that, crowded as they were with spat, wherever a light-coloured part of the wood was exposed—as where the hazel twigs were split, or where the bark was peeled off in places—there was no spat, while, on the contrary, the darker the exterior of the wattling of the hurdle, the thicker lay the spat there. The same with the stones and bricks among the shingle on the opposite end of the *parc* to where the old oysters were laid down. All the spat found here was found as a rule on dark stones, or the dark parts only of the bricks. It was also remarkable that the spot in the *parc* where this last deposit of spat should only exist was away from that portion of the water where the oysters were deposited, and where the hurdles were placed for the reception of the spat. This is explained, however, by the fact that, in nine instances out of ten, the wind blows from the seaward and over the pond—from the old oyster deposit end to the place where the spat was found on the stones and the bricks—the spat, in fact, having escaped the hurdles, risen to the surface, and then been blown over to the opposite shore.

Having thus far examined the *parc* of the company laid down and stocked with old oysters on the Lake Fusaro principle, let us turn to the *parc* laid down and stocked on the French principle of the Ile de Ré.

Here the results are not so decisive, nor can it be said so satisfactory, as regards the production of spat alone. The area of water is greater than in the Fusaro lake, is carefully divided into ponds, each carefully coated at the bottom with shingle, and the water, as we have before observed, is constantly but not violently moving. The beds were stocked with 20,000 oysters, and the tiles laid down as "collectors" of the spat. At the present time there is, as yet, no spat in any part of those beds worth notice, although the number of oysters laid down is exactly fourfold that of the other *parc*, where the spat has been, and still continues, so plentiful. There is this important fact, however, which must be taken into consideration—the oysters in this *parc* were not laid down until nearly a month after those in the Fusaro *parc*, and this may possibly account for the remarkable difference in the two. But there is also one other remarkable condition, which must be given its due weight in any consideration of the difference in the exhibition of spat in the two *parcs*. The pump to which reference has been made as pumping a portion of the water, on its way through the gateway from the first *parc* to the second lifts this water into a large slate tank, whose overflow joins the other water from the gateway, and supplies the Ile de Ré *parc*. Now, with regard to the deposit of spat, the main facts for consideration in the present case are these:—1. The Fusaro *parc*, with its 50,000 oysters, and its generally still water, has given, and is still giving, an enormous quantity of spat. 2. In the running water of the gateway which connects the two *parcs* the hurdles which have been placed there show but very insignificant signs of spat. 3. The same water pumped into the large slate tank, and lying there in perfect stillness, has deposited millions of oysterlings on the sides of the tank, which are flourishing wonderfully. 4. In the Ile de Ré beds, or *parc*, through which all the water passes, and where the water is constantly though gently moving, no spat of consequence has been deposited, either from the water running into it from the Fusaro *parc*, by the gateway, by the pumped overflow of the tank, or from the 200,000 oysters with which the Ile de Ré is stocked.

The company are also engaged in preparing a portion of their grounds for breeding lobsters and other crustacea; but it is with their endeavours to introduce successfully oyster culture on the Continental plan into this country that this notice more particularly deals. As Mr. Frank Buckland says, in *Land and Water*, "All must be rejoiced to hear the good news; the success of this experiment in oyster-breeding does the highest credit to the ingenuity of the gentleman who had the planning and superintendence of the works."

The gentleman referred to by Mr. Buckland is Mr. George W. Hart, the manager of the company; and we can bear witness to his courtesy and also to the great interest which attends a visit at the present time to the oyster-farm of the South of England Oyster Company at Hayling.

A WAIF.—On the 20th of May the ship Clarendon picked up, in the Bay of Bengal, a man floating on a small piece of wreck, who told the following story:—"I, John Elliot, am a native of Sweden. I was an A.B. on board the ship *Scotia*, of Liverpool, Captain Dyer, from Moulmein, with a cargo of rice. We left Amherst on the 14th of May, and had to cut away our masts the next day in a heavy gale. While I was engaged in clearing the wreck I was knocked down, and remained senseless I know not how long. On coming to myself I found that the captain and crew had abandoned the vessel, and that she was on the point of sinking. As she went down I managed to lay hold of and secure myself in the cabin skylight, on which I remained until picked up—five days—without either food or water."

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.—On the 21st inst., being St. Matthew's Day, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs will attend Divine service at Christ's Church, Newgate-street, where a sermon will be preached by the Rev. W. Webster, M.A., late Head Mathematical Master of Christ's Hospital; after which they will proceed to the Great Hall to hear the orations delivered by the senior scholars, according to annual custom. The following is a programme of the speeches:—Prologue, Latin Iambics, G. A. Greenhill, fourth Grecian; Greek oration on the benefits of the Royal Hospital, S. S. Allen, second Grecian; English oration on the same subject, W. Keymer, first Grecian; Latin oration on the same subject, S. S. O. Morris, fifth Grecian; French oration on the same subject, A. L. Francis, third Grecian. After which the following translations from English poets will be recited:—Greek Hexameters, translation from "Childe Harold," S. J. Sharkey, sixth Grecian; Latin Alcaics, "The Last Man," J. T. Bell, eighth Grecian; Greek Iambics, translation from "Richard III.," R. Appleton, seventh Grecian; Latin Sapphics, "Casabianca," E. F. Gibbard, thirteenth Grecian; Greek Elegiacs, "Death and the Warrior," J. Bowen, ninth Grecian; Latin Elegiacs, "The Slave's Dream," J. B. Palmer, tenth Grecian. There will also be an original Latin poem, not yet adjudged.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—The Irish Registrar-General has issued his annual agricultural returns. They show, especially on the flax question, an increase of 11,986 acres under this important crop in 1886 as compared with 1885, and also an increase over every year since 1851 inclusive, with the exception of the year 1864, when the total acreage was 301,693. The province of Ulster this year shows a total increase of 11,999 acres, exceeding by thirteen acres the entire net increase of the whole of Ireland. The only county in Ulster showing a decrease in the acreage is Armagh, in which the return shows a falling off of 1441. The increase in the county of Monaghan amounts to 866, while in all the others it varies from 1174 in Tyrone to 2628 in Down. In the province of Leinster the increase is 1470 acres, the relative quantities being 5858 in 1865, 7328 in 1866. Longford, Louth, Meath, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow, King's County, and Queen's County show an increase varying from four acres in Wicklow to 412 in Meath. The counties of Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, and Kilkenny show a decrease varying from 11 acres in Dublin to 72 in Kilkenny. Munster and Connaught both show a decrease in the area under flax—the former of 828 acres and the latter of 655 acres. The decrease in the county of Cork is 285 acres; Limerick, 222 acres; Kerry, 156 acres; Clare, 64 acres; Tipperary, 77 acres; and Waterford 24 acres. Of the counties in Connaught, the greatest decrease is in Mayo, 371 acres; in Sligo there is a decrease of 229 acres; Roscommon, 135 acres; and Galway, 111 acres; and the remaining county, Leitrim, shows an increase of 191 acres. The following is the total extent of flax grown in Ireland in each year from 1851 to 1886, both inclusive:—1851, 149,596 acres; 1852, 167,008 acres; 1853, 174,579 acres; 1854, 151,403 acres; 1855, 97,975 acres; 1856, 106,311 acres; 1857, 97,721 acres; 1858, 91,646 acres; 1859, 136,282 acres; 1860, 128,595 acres; 1861, 147,957 acres; 1862, 160,070 acres; 1863, 214,099 acres; 1864, 301,693 acres; 1865 251,433 acres; 1866, 263,419 acres.

Literature.

The Three Louisas. A Novel. By H. SUTHERLAND EDWARDS. In Three Volumes. London: Tinsley Brothers.

In the present English age, which—despite the miserably small but widespread cynicism concerning anything in the shape of love and marrying on £300 a year—will be found essentially chivalrous by truth seekers, it would be hard if Mr. Edwards's story did not find at least one admirer in every household. As far as "the sex" goes, at least, in the matter of chivalry, Mr. Edwards's pen is more determined than Don Quixote's lance, and he shivers it against nothing imaginary, but always against certain bans of society under which women are supposed to suffer. This is done in his own person as a writer, rather than dramatically as a drawer of character. But this kind of chivalry is like an army in revolutionary times—it is "a two-edged sword to all who wield." His keenest slashes, his most overpowering shocks, are in favour of pretty faces and figures, whilst the less fortunate are suffered to go through the world as targets for the wit and personalities of the Wambas, who court only the Rebeccas and the Rowenas. In families this seems calculated to give more private satisfaction to the few than to call forth expressed acquiescence from the many; but if there be any truth in "every star being a kindred star to some other star," it is easy to see that as every lover fancies the loved one to be perfect (and all the world is in love), the one-sided chivalry of "The Three Louisas" is likely to please everybody, as far as everybody sees it. Yet the inexhaustible theme of woman is not enough for Mr. Edwards, whose other object of admiration is music, and who seems to think, with Shelley, that,

True love in this differs from gold and clay
That to divide is not to take away;

and he keeps them in turn or together always before us, and never dreams that one or the other, or the combination, can tire. Nor do they tire. The passions are connected by a slender thread of story, truly; but, like the Atlantic cable, it is the vitality of the thread which imparts life and importance to the whole.

Without saying anything about the "three" Louisas together, it is sufficient to say a few words about the history of one: an English girl, half Italian through her mother, a prima donna in days gone by. The wealthy father dies, leaving the family destitute, and Louisa successively becomes French teacher, composer, and Italian prima donna in her turn, finally making a love match of a most exalted description. Beyond that, which is an everyday story, it is unnecessary to follow further the fortunes of Louisa Maynard. Many writers, perhaps, might fill in the mass of varied, incidental details as skilfully as Mr. Edwards has done; but few could rival him in writing so many pages where no one line tires, but all is amusing and graceful, serious and sometimes sad, teeming with common-sense which startles by the keenness with which it is put, and brisk with life and manners, the manners being good and bad, reminding us of a garden of flowers wherein weeds will somehow force their way and flourish.

After quitting the roof no longer paternal, Louisa has a hard time of it, and her experiences, temptations, and triumphs serve to bring out what Mr. Edwards has to say about his two pet subjects. "Maidens and Music," the book might have been called. Passing over the very graphic and hard-hitting description of the death in the house, with which the first volume opens, when Master Tommy is ordered to leave off spinning his pegtop, and grumbles because papa is "always dying," the striking scenes begin with Mrs. Fitz-Henry's Finishing Establishment for Young Ladies. Louisa is to talk nothing but French—even in her sleep, and takes lessons in getting into a carriage which in all probability never will be hers. These school-girl scenes are told with infinite humour, and are very likely true; for a good novelist on such a subject would not hesitate to spend a small fortune in obtaining information from dancing-masters and singing-masters, not to mention professors of deportment. To the world they will be quite new, and vastly more amusing than most new things are. Such touches as "the poor girls never had dinner; for the meal at one o'clock was fashionably called lunch," and "the under governess being a confirmed black-silker," only indicate the style of whole pages, which would be too long for extract. How Louisa quits the school, gets her songs published, and makes a sensation in the lyric drama, are parts of the story not to be divulged. But it is remarkable how, as soon as the second stage of the story is touched, bad characters in clusters come upon the scene. All the London music publishers are almost bodily drawn forth, and they make a very unfavourable impression, apparently well deserved. The "tricks of trade" are well known to be monstrous. When, however, the scene changes to the management of an opera, the mere music-publishers look quite glossy by force of contrast. The manager, evidently a copy of an easily-guessed original, is a miracle of coarseness and meanness, just redeemed by many flashes of humour and good-nature. All justice is done to the fearful labours and responsibilities of the conductor, whom people imagine to have only to lead the band, instead of educating the principal singers and producing harmony amongst them, the chorus, and the musicians—a Cosmos out of chaos, if ever there were one. As people with a little experience will know, there is much goodness mixed up with the coarseness, the quarrelling, and the various kinds of "slips" made by people in these dangerous walks; and many sensible and charitable observations are addressed to that severe prudery which does not scruple to enjoy all operative amusement whilst branding those who give it for their alleged immorality. Such battles as these are well fought, and the profession owes much to Mr. Edwards.

The characters in "The Three Louisas" are entertaining companions. There is the good (as Lords go) Lord Salern and his warm-hearted nephew, Hilton, who, by-the-way, is strangely attached to the English Embassy at Hong-Kong! This, surely, is a new feature in our diplomatic relations abroad. The Baron Haulingswell is really good, and the way in which his vixen Baroness is converted an excellent joke. The affection and the greed of Wolfenbüttel are well drawn; and Flingsby, one of the principal characters, is genuine flesh and blood from Broad street, Rotten-row, and Behind Scenes. Mr. Edwards is delicate in drawing male characters, making them subservient to his favourite ideas. The heroine, Mrs. Fitz-Henry, Adelaide Luscombe, and others, are given with greater intimacy and reality. The gaiety and lightness of the story—the serious passages of which are even placed in like flowers—and the fair worldly teaching to which all tends, constitute "The Three Louisas" one of the most pleasant and original fictions of our times.

Dr. Austin's Guests. By WILLIAM GILBERT, Author of "De Profundis," &c. London: A. Strahan.

The high qualities of Mr. Gilbert as a storyteller of the fine old English school are not new to the readers of this Journal. Many years ago we had the pleasure—a pleasure that was very much like pain, so deeply pathetic was the story—of introducing to our readers Mr. Gilbert's story entitled "Margaret Meadows; a Tale for the Pharisees." In noticing that extraordinary book, we dared say we happened to mention, what was quite true, that the mere reading of it had made us ill; and we went on to say that Mr. Gilbert not only belonged to the school of Defoe, but must be accounted his peer. Without, we believe, one dissenting voice, the best organs of living criticism have since confirmed that verdict, and Mr. Gilbert enjoys a fame and a position altogether unique as a novelist of the order in which Defoe was his illustrious predecessor. There is no writer now extant so natural, so simple, so straightforward, so capable of sustaining an immense interest on a basis of what appear to be commonplace; no writer now extant who so thoroughly deludes or illudes the reader into the belief that what he is reading is a succession of true incidents, just cut out of a newspaper or told in fireside good faith in the quiet of an English home. The writer of these lines is not the only man of some experience in books who has found it impossible to get through "Margaret Meadows" at one sitting; and, coming down to the more recent works of Mr. Gilbert, two of which deal with mad-houses and mad-house people, we are scarcely able to say that they ought to be read continuously through. Mr. Gilbert has so great a power of

being natural, throwing himself unreservedly into the situation and the character, whatever they are, that you read a madman's story when he is the teller with an amount of easy sympathy which is almost dangerous. You feel as if you could comfortably go mad yourself—it's all so simple and easy. But there is no passion about Mr. Gilbert's stories; the suffering which is in them affects you, but not because you discern that it has previously affected the author, for you discern nothing of the kind. He generally tells his stories in the first person; but the movement of the narrative is always as unimpassioned as if the narrator were some rusty old eavesdropping rook who had acquired a knowledge of human life and the human heart, and were impersonating people he had seen and known.

Dr. Austin is the keeper of a quiet, homelike asylum for monomaniacs of the gentle order. One of the men cannot rid himself of a fancy that a piece of a bridge which he has frequently to cross is quite unsafe; another thinks the sea contains elements of combustion which would make it easy to burn up the world; another is sure he is possessed of a devil; another has a scheme for what he calls the concentration of eternity; another, meditating upon an air-gun, has taken it into his head that he would be able to multiply force till at last he could explode the universe. Lest he should be tempted to do this profane thing, he begs to be confined. Victor Hugo says of the first Napoleon, that "il gênait Dieu;" this mechanical gentleman wishes to avoid having any such thing said of him, and so he becomes one of Mr. Austin's monomaniacs. The stories he tells of the other "guests" of his own illusions, and of the squabbles the madmen get into with each other, constitute the interest of the book.

"Dr. Austin's Guests" is one of the most amusing of Mr. Gilbert's books. The different stories are full of incident, and the author's dry, solemn humour is never long absent from the pages.

Routledge's Songsters. Edited by J. E. CARPENTER. London: Routledge and Sons.

We have here a batch of four books of songs—namely, "The Family Song-Book," "The Amusing Songster," "The Social Songster," and "Everybody's Song-Book"—on looking at the outside of which we are forcibly reminded of a joke that appeared in *Punch* a week or two ago, the gist of which was that intensely musical people were generally somewhat idiotic. We should be sorry to insinuate that either the editor or the publishers of these little volumes were distinguished by the characteristic mentioned. Yet why did they put such absurd covers on their books? Here we have several groups of persons printed in bright colours whose attitudes and expression of countenance are anything but attractive. On the wrappers of two of the books—"The Amusing Songster" and "The Social Songster"—the same group appears; said group consisting of a gentleman of middle age and full physical development, who is evidently bawling out something at the top of his voice and at the imminent risk of bringing on a fit of apoplexy. Surrounding this individual are two other masculine persons, one old and the other young, but both looking idiotic exceedingly; and a couple of girls, who would be interesting-looking were they not listening to singing. On the cover of a third volume—"The Family Song-Book"—a handsome young man is doing the vocalisation, which must be a very painful task, for his face (or what is seen of it) wears an expression of great suffering. Singing, like eating, is a rather unintellectual (though it may be highly agreeable) occupation, and ought therefore not to be pictorially illustrated. In fact, singing does not improve the character of the human face divine. The prettiest even of our cantatrices looks somewhat ridiculous when she appears upon the stage with her mouth agape and her throat straining to give utterance to some unusually high and difficult note. And just look what "guys" those chorister boys are who howl before us in every print-shop window! Singing differs from dancing in this respect, that, whereas the movements of a group of terpsichoreans seem preposterously unmeaning if you close your ears and shut out the accompanying music, singing would be greatly improved if we could always close our eyes and shut out the sight of the singer—at least if all singers resemble those on the wrapper of "The Amusing Songster." Hence we object to wrapping up so ill-favouredly a collection of songs which, taking the several volumes as constituting a whole, is very good indeed. Most of the modern favourites are here, some of which, by-the-way, might perhaps have better been omitted, while a fair sprinkling of the old standard pieces is given. Mr. Carpenter has executed his task of editor as satisfactorily as such a task, always a difficult one, could be executed; and the result would have been very nearly unobjectionable had the wrappers been dispensed with. But, despite the wrappers, this collection of songs—which, by-the-by, are classified according to their nature—deserves a word of commendation; and, notwithstanding the carping into which we have been led by the wrappers, we heartily give it.

TWO CHOICE BOOKS.

The Republic of Plato. Translated into English, with an Analysis and Notes, by JOHN LLEWELYN DAVIES, M.A., and DAVID JAMES VAUGHAN, M.A., late Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge. Third Edition. Cambridge and London: Macmillan and Co.

Bacon's Essays, and Colours of Good and Evil. With Notes and Glossarial Index. By W. ALDIS WRIGHT, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge. Cambridge and London: Macmillan and Co.

These volumes both belong to the admirable Golden Treasury Series of Messrs. Macmillan and Co., and they are both works to buy and to keep. It is scarcely possible to say anything too strong of the manner in which the Editors, Publishers, and Printers have done their parts (so far as we are capable of judging)—the printing, the notes, the criticisms, the glossarial explanations are all exceptionally good.

Plato's Republic is a curious example of what the *State* idea may run out into. Begin your scheme of things with the conception of the State or the Community and you naturally destroy the individual, except as a State instrument, and come as easily as possible to a regimen which annihilates marriage and parentage, and thinks to work the State machine successfully by taking all the motive power out of existence.

Bacon's "Essays" are not reviewable, but we will risk the observation that they discover, much more than is commonly noticed, the cold, worldly heart of the man and the meanness of his conception of life. We may be habitually indulgent, or even blind, to Bacon's faults, because, as Macaulay said, "we are judging Manlius in sight of the capitol." But every now and then the base nature thrusts itself into our faces, and we think with horror what a monster of incongruities the man was.

It is amusing, in turning over old books, to observe how expressions counted quite modern, and condemned as "slang" or as "exotic," are as old as the hills, and strictly classical. Such, for example, is the word *portion*, used to mean an individual. We have seen the phrase "solution of continuity" scouted as "exotic" and "affected," but Bacon employs it naturally enough. It may comfort some people to hear that even Bacon makes mistakes. He puts Apelles for Zeuxis, and he cannot spell sibyl properly. One of the greatest of living writers spells siren with a y.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN THE MINORIES.—Early on Tuesday morning an extensive conflagration, resulting in the destruction of valuable property, variously estimated at from £100,000 to £200,000, occurred at the Haydon-square Railway goods station of the London and North-Western Railway Company, in the Minories. Shortly after the discovery of the fire, the metropolitan fire brigade, comprising nearly 200 men, with the whole of their steam fire-engines, arrived at the scene of danger; but the flames spread with great rapidity, and for hours resisted all efforts to subdue them. Seven extensive warehouses, some stored with dry goods, and others with more combustible materials, including whisky, paraffin oil, and saltpetre, were completely gutted and their contents destroyed. The flames illuminated in the most vivid manner the dome of St. Paul's, the churches and public buildings of the City, and also the shipping in the docks and for some miles down the river.

THE MILITARY PORT OF L'ORIENT.

Our Engravings this week represent another of those French military ports where such constant improvements are being effected. We have already given a detailed account of the works at Toulon, and those at L'Orient are almost equally interesting, and will soon become of still greater importance. This town and port are situated at the confluence of the Scorff and the Blavet, in the department of Morbihan, 266 miles W. by S. of Paris in a direct line, or 288 miles by the road, through Alençon, Fougères, Rennes, and Ploërmel. The town is well laid out, with wide, straight, well-paved streets. The houses are well built, and there are several pleasant promenades. The bridge over the Scorff, the quays, the theatre, the markets, and the public buildings are attractive; but the most important objects are, of course, those connected with the military port, which lies on the east side of the town, from which it is walled off. This port is about 4000 ft. long and 2000 ft. wide; and the mast and block manufactories, the ropewalks, the ship-

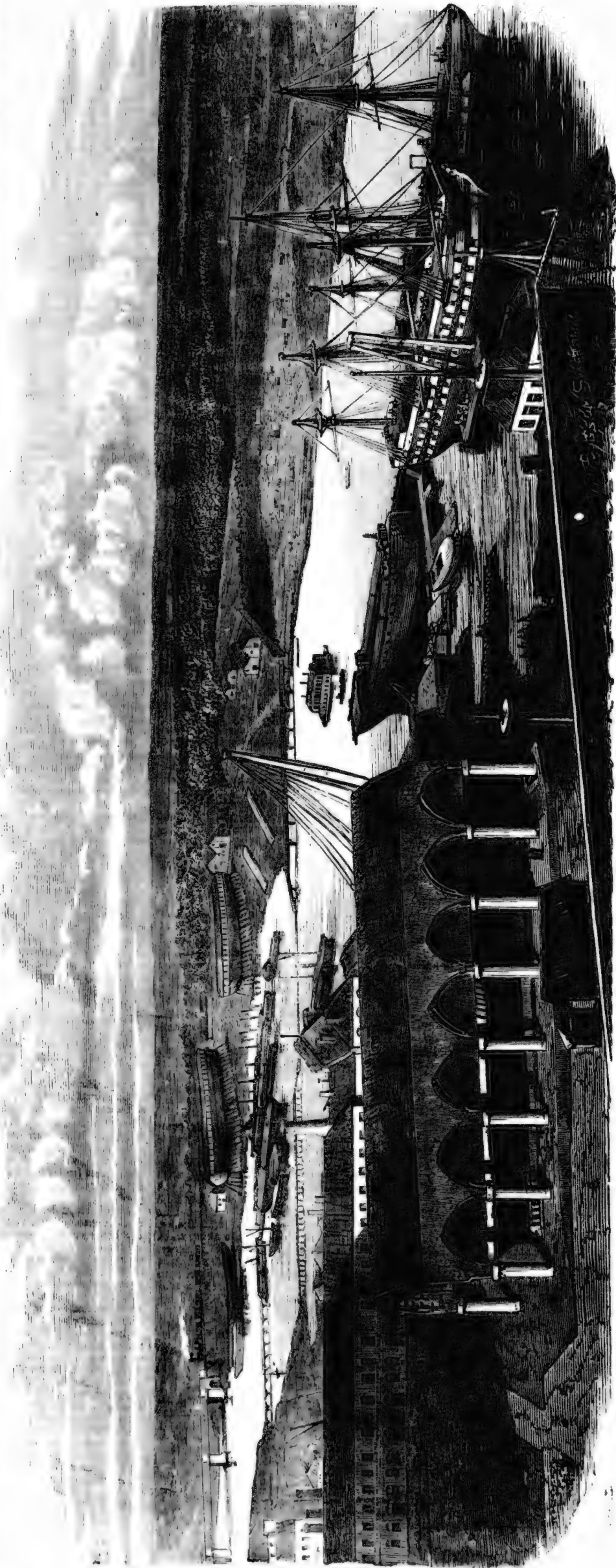
building yards, and the great range of forges and other workshops, as well as the barracks, the magazines, the schools of naval artillery, and the watch-tower, from which vessels can be discerned thirty miles out at sea—are all interesting to the visitor who obtains permission to make a tour of inspection.

On Dec. 15, 1787, the celebrated traveller Arthur Young makes in his journal a note on L'Orient, recording that the town is modern and regularly built, the streets radiating from the entrance and crossed by others at right angles; and that the thoroughfares are broad and well paved, containing houses of a good appearance. That which renders L'Orient celebrated (he says) is that it is devoted to the India trade, and contains the vessels and warehouses of the company, the latter being truly admirable, and exhibiting the princely munificence which established them. They are (he adds) built several stories high, with stone arches, and are of great extent. The some (he remarks) is lively, and fifteen vessels of war lying in the harbour, besides the vessels of the company and other merchant-ships, make an imposing spectacle in the port.

The notes of the traveller of that day recorded, as it were, the abridged history of the town and port, the former being essentially a modern settlement, built on a place which, scarcely a century ago, was a great patch of uncultivated land, and now contains more than 35,000 inhabitants. L'Orient is, in fact, one of the great centres of the population of the French empire, the growth of which has been the most rapid and considerable. Having been in turn a commercial town and an important dockyard for military armaments, L'Orient owes its origin and success to the different companies which were formed at the end of the seventeenth and during the eighteenth centuries. It was about 1666 that the first company, established at Port Louis, founded some warehouses on the banks of the Scorff; and thirty years afterwards the war transformed the mercantile into a military colony, the port gaining considerable importance under the direction of Louis XIV. and his Minister Pontchartrain. Ever since 1708 the arsenal and other works have been under the control of the military and naval authorities, a large number of the latter being connected with

the government of the place. After the conclusion of the wars of Louis XIV. arrived Law, with his great financial projects. A commercial company, with a capital of five millions, was started under his direction, and L'Orient was chosen as the port of equipment. For fifty years the vessels of that gigantic association known as the French East India Company fitted out its vessels at this place, and it at once rose to a flourishing condition. Being required to protect its own commerce by force of arms, the company was compelled to unite a squadron of war to its trading fleet; and at one period of its existence it counted amongst its agents Labouderne and the Duplexes. L'Orient was the scene of those enormous commercial transactions which placed the French East India Company in its prominent position.

Now, however, the company itself has been superseded; and the aspect as well as the commercial prosperity of the town is changed. L'Orient is at present exclusively a military port, celebrated for its immense dockyards, its steam-ship building-yards and workshops, taking its place amongst the



METAL WORKSHOPS.

COVERED STOCKS.

FRENCH MILITARY PORTS: L'ORIENT.

EXERCISE-GROUND OF THE MARINE ARTILLERY SCHOOL.

great arsenals of the empire, and growing in importance from day to day. It is divided into two precincts—the first including the prefecture maritime and its dependencies, the mayoralty, the library, the central field hospital, the Place d'Armes, and the rope factory. The history of the prefecture goes back to the early time of the East India Company, which had this hotel erected for the purpose of the meetings of directors. The architecture is of the period of Louis XV., two wings alone having been added and the central edifices remaining in its original condition. The two portions of the building are united by an iron fence, behind which is a fine square facing the garden of the hotel. The left wing is occupied by the Marine Prefect, the ground floor being devoted to reception-rooms and private apartments. The right wing contains the public offices and the maritime tribunal.

The Place d'Armes is a fine square, accessible to the public, and planted with magnificent linden trees. The ropewalk, which was built in 1670, occupies the western wall of the arsenal.

In making the tour of a long interior court, or walk, shaded with oak and chestnut trees, which seem to be as old as the earliest of the buildings, the visitor comes to each department of this ropery in succession. The principal building consists of a penthouse roof, supported by stone pillars, the

wheels occupying one end, while the operation of tarring goes on in a lower floor, where the steam machinery is at work.

The operations of this department are generally more interesting to the visitor than those of some other portions of the works, the ingenious contrivances for all kinds of ropemaking at once attracting attention.

The second precinct of L'Orient is reached by passing through three iron gates. The first establishment on the left is a general magazine, or marine storehouse, built in 1783, and containing all the stores and implements required for fitting out and equipping vessels and troops. The centre of this building is devoted to the offices.

The signal-tower, which is the most prominent object of this division, stands upon a mamelon planted with trees, and was commenced in 1737, but not finished until 1744, when it was 27 ft. round and 110 ft. high; since that time, however, it has been frequently struck by lightning, and on more than one occasion almost destroyed. It was last rebuilt in 1786, since which time the discoveries of Franklin and the use of the lightning-conductor have rendered such accidents comparatively rare.

The marine barracks were formerly the warehouses and sail-stores of the East India Company, but are now converted into the dépôt for the troops of the marine service, and here are lodged the marines, the artillery,

engineers, and drill companies, forming altogether an effective force of 3200 men. The company of the Marine Artillery occupy the south wing of the old bagne, which was given up by the company in 1770. These buildings contain fourteen batteries, forming an effective force of 1400 men, and behind them are the canteen, the stables, the exercise battery for artillery practice, the school of artillery, and the barracks of the gendarmes. The saloon of arms is a vast apartment containing 12,000 different arms of the marine service, and the vestibule is decorated with trophies of weapons belonging to former periods, so arranged as to show their diverse character, interspersed with flags which have been taken in the wars of China and Mexico, and medallions bearing the names of the battles in which the Marine Artillery has taken part.

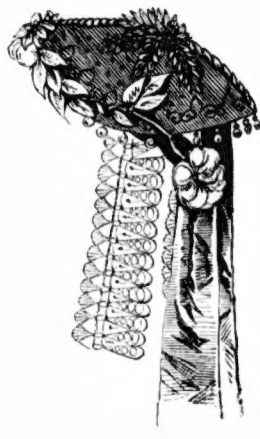
The park of ordnance constructed in 1851 contains 2000 mortars of all sizes, and 150,000 shot. Three bronze cannons at the entrance and extremity of the park, recall the French conquests of Algiers, San Juan d'Ulloa, and Obligado.

The Clermont-Tonnerre basin was commenced on July 18, 1820, and the frigate Andromède was the first to enter it for the purpose of being careened in 1833. This basin is now being lengthened, and will measure about 400 ft.

The stocks in this locality are covered by an elegant roof, supported on sixteen granite pillars, the work of Philibert de Lorme, the architect of the Louvre, and finished in 1820.

The workshops connected with the forges have three annexes, where all the operations of this department are carried on; and in the entire range of metal workshops and foundries are, of course, of the greatest importance: they are included in a building composed of two naves and a vast covered court containing the entire range of factories, where the machinery is constantly at work, and is of the same kind as that which belongs to our own dockyards—much of it being, in fact, supplied by English engineers. The dockyards named Candan occupy a space of 157,000 square metres, and contain nine stocks for building ships and frigates, and two others for smaller vessels. These dockyards have for some years been supplemented by large workshops for iron shipbuilding, and are furnished with very powerful and complete machinery; but new factories have now been ordered to be added to those already in operation, the buildings to be completed in the new style, which unites iron and glass in such a useful combination of strength and lightness.

F A S H I O N S F O R A U T U M N .



BONNETS.

AUTUMN, with its "sere and yellow leaf," is stealing fast upon us; and although our fair readers still wear their summer dresses, we feel sure they are anxiously awaiting the decrees of the fickle goddess Fashion, whose commands are always obeyed with so much celerity and delight, and are eagerly desiring to know in what style they shall prepare their toilets during the ensuing month.

It has been decreed, then, that crinoline shall be superseded by the short skirts worn by our grandmothers, skirts looped up over a coloured petticoat, while the high-heeled shoes and laced bodice are destined to make the return to the costumes of the past still more complete. The short dresses are generally from four to four yards and a half wide; they are much gored, and have no pleats *whatsoever* at the waist. The under skirt, which should be rather short, must also be gored and plain at the top; indeed, the fashionable skirts may be well compared in shape to that of a lamp-shade. The body of the dress should be quite plain, especially if the material used is of a thick texture. There will be no medium in the trimming of robes this season; it must either be most complicated, and include a variety of ornaments, such as lace, embroidery, pearls, gretots, dozens of steel, jet, or crystal studs, fringes, and buttons, or the skirt must be quite plain. The designs for this elegant style of trimming are most recherché, and require great skill in execution. Braiding is becoming unpopular, and will be replaced on skirts by velvet application of fanciful forms. Crescents of blue cloth on white woollen

petticoats, edged with silk braid or black beads, look very effective. The bottom of the skirt should be cut in tabs, and bound with black velvet.

We will describe a few dresses which we thought very elegant. A robe of green taffeta had a short skirt and very low bodice, which was ornamented with bretelles of the same material, confined at the shoulder by an ornament of crystal; the under skirt is of white muslin cut in square tabs, edged with a fluted flounce, above which is placed a puffing of muslin over green ribbon, while in the centre of each tab and on the puffing is a bow of ribbon, with a crystal ornament in the centre. An embroidered muslin chemisette with long sleeves and a ceinture, fastened at the left side with a bow and ends, completes this tasteful toilette. A walking dress of violet foulard had the upper skirt trimmed with a flounce, headed by a cross strip of the same material. The under skirt was of violet and white-striped foulard, much gored and scalloped round the bottom, the scallops finished off by violet and white gimp tassels. Plain bodice, round waistband, and peplum of the same material, scalloped to correspond with the second skirt.

A promenade dress, consisting of a petticoat of rich violet silk, trimmed at a little distance from the bottom by a band of white silk edged with violet braid, and a row of fancy buttons in the centre. Dress of green silk, the skirt looped up at intervals by pointed tabs of violet velvet, bound round with bands of white silk edged with fine violet braid; the body is plain and high, and is,

with the sleeves, trimmed with bands of white silk to match the tabs.

For evening costume, a dress of white silk, with under jupe of the same. At the bottom of the under skirt is a bouillon of tulle, over which is a flounce of white lace; the front is trimmed *en tablier*, the flounces becoming narrower as they reach the waist. The upper skirt is bordered by two narrow bands of pink silk, edged on each side with narrow white lace, and separated by a tulle bouillon. These bands are graduated to the top of the skirt, and are continued to the bodice, where the second band crosses the shoulders *à bretelles*. Swisses body of white silk, and chemisette of white muslin.

The redingote dress, made open down the front, is likely to be adopted for outdoor wear, as a sort of pelisse, under the name of polonaise. Paletots, short and loose, made of black cashmere, lined and quilted, trimmed with a black silk-and-jet gimp, or embroidered with silk and edged with fringe, or of coloured molleton of a bright shade, will be much worn. For richer materials, as velvet or satin, the tight-fitting paletot, with basques, is more suitable. They should be lined and quilted, and trimmed with lace. Sleeves have so long been made plain, like those of a coat, that it is quite a pleasure to be able to say that a reform is contemplated, and that the sleeves of paletots will be wide at the bottom, and cut in vandykes to correspond with the peplum. They should be trimmed round the points and up the seam as far as the elbow.

Peplums are worn either loose or tight-fitting for walking dress



DRESSES.

and such is their popularity that no ball dress is considered complete without a peplum. They are made of crape, embroidered with silk or spangled with gold or silver; of striped Indian muslins, embroidered with gold; of gauze, figured with silver, in a Greek pattern. Leaves of olive, and acanthus or palm, are much admired as a design for this elegant material. With a tarletane ball dress a peplum of silk is worn, with a gaze de Chambéry of the same material. The only way of trimming this dress is by a trellis-work of gimp, or of silver or gold lacing, over a crosswise band of silk.

The mixture of white with black in every material is still much in favour, and for white bodices the most approved style is to have the bodice in a fine thin fabric, without pleats, and the collar, cuffs, and front in thick linen, embroidered with black wove, in order to ensure their washing well. Over the white bodice may be worn a tiny jacket, without sleeves, made of cashmere, trimmed with

guipure, or of mauve, pink, blue, or violet silk. A waistband of ribbon, embroidered with gold and fancy clasp, should complete this tasteful toilette. Another caprice is the necklace of velvet with jet cross and studs (now worn in Paris), or the black collars with medallions; some coquettes wear small bells, on each of which is engraved a motto, attached to a velvet collar, tinkling as they walk. Earrings, too, of the same pattern are seen; they are worn longer than they have hitherto been, and droop on to the shoulder.

Bonnets are still of the Lamballe and fanchen shape; but we have one or two more resembling the Marie Stuart, and descending more towards the ears. Black bonnets entirely covered with jet beads, are trimmed with a bouquet of jet wheat-ears, and a benoison of flowers trailing upon the neck. A bonnet of blue velvet edged with crystal ball fringe, was trimmed with grapes and vine-leaves, and had blue strings. Our Engraving represents—first, a robe of

white and black gaze de Chambéry, the skirt very full at the bottom and plain at the waist; the trimming, a band of rose de Chine taffeta, is edged with small black beads. The corsage is cut square, and is of the same material as the trimming of the skirt, while the sleeves are of gaze de Chambéry. A paletot of the same, but without sleeves, is trimmed to correspond. Bonnet of white straw, with black lace, trimmings and strings of black tulle edged with lace.

The second figure has an under skirt of blue foulard, without any trimming, a robe Princesse of grey mohair, shorter than the jupe and cut in square tabs round the bottom and side seams; these are bound with black silk and edged with braid; it is fastened up the left side with black and steel buttons. The body is made high, and has jockeys tabbed and bound to match the skirt. The paletot is of the same and is buttoned on the left side, like the robe; at the sleeves

and back are placed knots of black ribbon, fixed on with a button of black and steel. The bonnet of black straw, and blue gauze veil.

A dress of sea-green silk; the skirt gored, and forming a short train at the back. Paletot of black velvet, cut to fall almost square, that is to say, only defining the waist in the very slightest degree. The bottom edge is cut in a scalloped form, the scallops following the outline of the trimming, which consists of six rows of small jet beads, placed very close together, and interrupted at intervals by round jet ornaments, outside which the jet beads are carried; the cuffs, neck, and front are trimmed in the same way, and at each side of the front, and on each sleeve, there is a large star shaped ornament with a jet centre. Bonnet of black velvet, edged with a green ruching and crystal drops; roses and white feathers are placed on it, and it has streamers of white tulle and strings of green silk.

The fourth figure has a dress of Havannah silk, the skirt trimmed at a little distance from the bottom by a band of violet velvet. The body is plain and high, and has a centre of violet velvet cut in the Suisse form, with points at the top, and having a deep basque open in front and at the back, and laced up the back only by passementerie or cord. Two bands of violet velvet are crossed over the shoulders, forming bretelles, and are attached to the points of the centre, both in front and at the back, by bows of the brown silk, with pearl clasps in the centres. Bonnet of black velvet, edged with a rose-coloured ruching, and fastening behind the chignon by rose-coloured strings.

Among the bonnets selected for our Engraving will be seen a fancheon shape, with long pointed ears; it is made of white areophane, and is trimmed by a circlet of roses, with rosebuds, leaves, grapes, both black and white, and vine-leaves. The strings are of pink silk. A fancheon bonnet of black velvet, having a curtain formed of two flounces of white lace, which are continued down to the ears. At the left side a damask rose, with branch and leaves. Strings of white silk. This would be a suitable bonnet for an elderly lady, and it is quite probable that the curtain will be generally adopted during the colder months, when the Lamballe and Pamela bonnets will be almost useless to protect the head from the wind and cold, being only ornamental head-dresses, not head coverings.

A black tulle bonnet was dotted with jet beads, so as to form a star-shaped ornament in the centre. This bonnet is lozenge-shaped, and has the edges hollowed out, forming points at the back, front, and sides. A curtain of black lace, headed by a row of jet rings, is continued in front and forms a Chaine Benoiton. The strings are of black silk, and fasten at the back.

A bonnet of the Annamite shape is made of dotted tulle, the beads worked in a trefoil pattern round the edge; it has a star-shaped ornament in the centre, a girelot fringe at the edge of the front, strings of lace and black silk, fastened behind the chignon by a bow, above which is placed a branch of roses and leaves, ornamenting the front and completing the trimming.

The round hat is of grey terry velvet, the brim being covered by a band of black velvet. In front a bird of paradise, a peacock's feather, and a white tuft.

The mousquetaire hat of grey felt has a broad band of black velvet, in the midst of which is placed a row of white feathers, mixed with those of the peacock. In front is a white aigrette and plume of white feathers, fastened by folds of black velvet; the brim is bound with black velvet. This hat is very effective and will be found very comfortable, especially now that the chignon is worn so much higher; indeed, the present style of wearing the hair recalls the fashion of the First Empire. Ribbons embroidered with gold are used in coiffures; enamelled flowers are also worn.

THE VINTAGE IN FRANCE.—Accounts from the centre of France respecting the vintage state that the few days of sunshine and warmth have produced an excellent effect on the grapes. The gathering commenced this week in the most favoured districts. In the Upper Beaujolais, where the finer sorts of wine are grown, the vintage will not, however, begin before the 20th or 25th, as the fruit is there allowed to get as ripe as possible before it is plucked. The summer having been so wet the growers are in hopes of a fine autumn.

THE HOP CROP.—The reports from the hop districts, though tolerable favourable, speak of the damage done by the recent storms of wind and rain. The hops have been battered a good deal, and in exposed situations the fruit has suffered some little damage from being knocked about by the wind. Picking has commenced, and will be general next week. Warm, sunny and quiet weather is now greatly to be desired. Speaking generally, the hops are very backward considering the period of the year, and nothing but really fine weather can make any amends. With dry and sunny days and a warm temperature some gardens may still improve a good deal; but, if we have a "wet picking," the crops will fall far short of the moderate expectations formed, both as regards quantity and quality. Quantity must, in any case, be short, taking the crop generally throughout the hop counties, and, unless there comes a marked change in the weather, the planters will be disappointed in their anticipations of a really fine sample.

THE IRONWORKERS' STRIKE IN THE NORTH.—The strike of ironworkers in the Cleveland district and Northumberland, owing to a refusal on their part to accept a reduction of 10 per cent in their wages, seems to afford little prospect of a termination. The funds of the union had lately become so reduced that for two weeks only the miserable pittance of 1s. 6d. or 2s. was paid to each man, and, as a consequence, thousands of families were on the verge of starvation. It was generally believed that the men would be forced into compliance with the masters' terms by reason of their necessities; but a new phase has now been given to the struggle, for appeals have been made to the trades unions of other workmen in the district, which in many instances have been successful, and aid has also been promised from the Staffordshire ironworkers, who had hitherto been alienated through former trade differences from their northern brethren. Help is also confidently expected from the London Working Men's Association, with the executive committee of which the secretary of the Ironworkers' Association has been in personal communication for some days past. Appeals are likewise made to the general public with more or less success. The chief reason alleged by the masters for their insisting on a reduction of wages was the depressed state of the iron trade. This position the men allege is untenable, as it would equally apply to the Staffordshire, Wales, and Scotch iron districts, which are still in full work at the old rates. The men further affirm that both iron and coal are much cheaper in the northern district, which correspondingly enhances the profits of the masters over those of the other districts, where the works are still in full operation. Secret meetings on the part of the men have been abandoned, and the above and similar views are being enunciated at gatherings to which the public are invited at various places throughout the district; and, as a result, the tide of public feeling seems to be turning in favour of the men. The masters declare they are quite content to let their works stand. It is computed that the numbers of men out amount to 10,000 or 12,000.

THE OPERATIVE BAKERS.—A crowded meeting of operative bakers was held in St. James's Hall, on Saturday evening last, for the purpose of adopting measures to effect an abridgment of the hours of labour and the abolition of nightwork in the trade. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. A. Smith, M.P. (Chichester). The chairman said he was convinced that in matters of this kind hard words and violence did harm rather than good. He believed that in order to win they should be uncompromising but gentle, firm and unyielding, but honestly prepared to give consideration to the position and interests of the masters. Mr. Thomson moved a resolution on declaring the present system of unlimited hours and nightwork to be unjust, unnatural, and unnecessary. Mr. Blackmore seconded the resolution. Mr. McNaughten, in supporting it, observed that a good deal had been lately said about strikes, but if ever there was a righteous strike it would be one in the baking trade. If the bakers were of his opinion they would strike next week. The resolution was put and carried. Mr. Howe proposed the next resolution, declaring it to be the duty of all who desire a change to join the Amalgamated Association, the object of which is to secure for the operative bakers moral and social elevation. Mr. Bennett seconded the resolution, and remarked that the sequel of the Liverpool strike showed that the bakers must not be too confident of success. At the same time the success of the Manchester strike was an example to them, and, looking at it, they might say they were not going to be beaten this time. Mr. Pidgeon, who supported the resolution, said that the whole question with the employers as to acceding to the wishes of the men was one of expense, because the masters had either the means or the will to increase the number of their ovens and hands. The resolution was carried unanimously. The chairman said a question in writing had been put to him whether he thought it likely that the Legislature would assist the operative bakers by passing a bill to prevent the bakehouses being kept open for work at certain hours of the night. In reply, he thought the Legislature would not and ought not to do so. He felt it unworthy of such a meeting as that he saw before him, to ask any body of men, legislators or otherwise, to interfere between adult labour and its employers with reference to the footing upon which labour was to be placed. He believed it rested with the men themselves to have the burden of such slavish labour removed. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

THE GREAT SHIP-RACE FROM CHINA.

THE truly marvellous race this year between the fleet of China clipper-ships from Foo-Chow-Foo, for the premium offered by the London brokers for the first of the season's teas, and their almost neck-and-neck struggle during the whole voyage of upwards of 16,000 miles, is an event exciting a vast amount of interest in almost every maritime port, both at home and abroad. It appears there were nine ships engaged in the contest, the names of which, together with the times of their respective departures from Foo-Chow-Foo, we subjoin:—

Names.	Tonnage.	Captains.	Where Built.	Owners.	Date of Sailing.
Ada	686	Jones ..	Aberdeen ..	Wade and Co. ..	June 6.
Ariel	853	Keay ..	Greenock ..	Shaw and Lowther ..	May 30.
Black Prince ..	750	Ingila ..	Aberdeen ..	Findlay and Co. ..	June 3.
Chinaman ..	688	Downie ..	Greenock ..	Park Brothers ..	June 5.
Fiery Cross ..	689	Robinson ..	Liverpool ..	J. Campbell ..	May 29.
Flying Spur ..	731	Byrie ..	Aberdeen ..	Robertson and Co. ..	June 5.
Serica	708	James ..	Greenock ..	Findlay and Co. ..	May 30.
Taeping	767	M'Kinnon ..	Greenock ..	Roger and Co. ..	May 30.
Taitaing	815	Nutfield ..	Glasgow ..	Findlay and Co. ..	May 31.

The struggle was between the Fiery Cross, Ariel, Taeping, and Serica. The Fiery Cross obtained a start of one day over the others. The Serica, Ariel, and Taeping crossed the bar of Foo-Chow-Foo, in company together, May 30. The Taitaing started the following day. There was a fair wind (N.E.) blowing, which the Fiery Cross kept to 19 20 N., when they met with a few hours' calm and southerly wind. North-east wind, fresh, again set in, which carried them to the Pascells reef, on June 3, though they were not sighted. The Serica, Taeping, and Ariel met with similar weather. The Fiery Cross saw nothing of them until noon of June 7, in lat. 9° 37', when she passed a large ship on the opposite tack, believed to have been the Ariel. To the southward of the Pascells they met with strong south-west winds. As far as we have been enabled to ascertain, the ships passed the lighthouse at Anjer, Strait of Sunda, as follows:—Fiery Cross, at noon on June 18; Ariel, on the morning of June 20; Taeping, on the afternoon of June 20; Serica, at six p.m. of June 22; Taitaing, at 10 p.m., on June 22; Black Prince, on June 29.

At this time the Fiery Cross was evidently holding the lead; while the Taitaing, which left Foo-Chow-Foo on the day after the others, had caught up with the Serica, the Fiery Cross heading both by two days. From Anjer they carried good trade winds to the meridian of Madagascar. The Fiery Cross passed Mauritius on June 30, the Ariel on July 2.

The Cape of Good Hope was sighted by the Fiery Cross on July 15, at ten p.m. The Ariel rounded the Cape the next day. Wind, S.E. to E. and N.E. The Serica rounded the Cape on the 22nd.

The equator was passed—Fiery Cross, six p.m. of Aug. 4; Ariel, on the 5th; and Serica, on the 9th.

On Aug. 9, in lat. 12° 29' N., the Fiery Cross signalled the Taeping, and continued in company till the 17th, with wind variable and light. In lat. 27° 53', long. 36° 54' W., a fresh breeze sprung up and took the Taeping out of sight from the Fiery Cross in four or five hours. The Fiery Cross was becalmed and was not making one knot per hour for twenty-four hours. This circumstance is alleged to have lost her the race. On the 29th she reached lat. 41° 5' N., long. 35° 51' W., and at ten a.m. of the 6th inst. she sighted the Isle of Wight, it bearing N.N.W., with a wind W.S.W., blowing hard.

The Ariel and Taeping, which had lost sight of each other for seventy days, found themselves on Wednesday morning at eight o'clock off the Lizard running neck and neck up the Channel under every stitch of canvas that could be set, with a strong westerly wind. During the whole day the two ships kept their position, dashing up the Channel side by side in splendid style, sometimes almost on their beam ends, every sea sweeping their decks. On approaching the pilot station off Dungeness, the next morning they each fired blue lights to signalise their position. At daybreak the pilots boarded them at the same moment, and the race was continued in the same exciting manner till they arrived in the Downs, where they both took steam-tugs to tow them to the river. The ships had to shorten sail to enable the tugs coming up and picking up the hawseers to take them in tow. This was about eight o'clock a.m., the tugs starting almost simultaneously, and both ships still neck and neck. The Taeping, however, was fortunate enough to have a superiority in the power of the steam-tugs, and reached Gravesend some time before the Ariel. The Serica followed closely upon them. She passed Deal at noon, and got into the river with the same tide which carried the Taeping and Ariel up the river to the docks, when the result of this extraordinary race was declared to be as follows:—

Taeping, docked in London Docks, 9.45 p.m.	1
Ariel, docked in East India Dock, 10.15 p.m.	2
Serica, docked in West India Docks, 11.30	3

The Taeping, therefore, was the winner of the premium, about £500, the bills of lading of each ship setting forth that 10s. per ton extra was to be paid if first sailing-vessel in dock with new teas from Foo-Chow-Foo. The Fiery Cross arrived in the Downs on the 7th, and was compelled to bring up to an anchor on account of a heavy gale blowing, where she remained some time. She, however, managed to get into the London Dock by eight o'clock on Saturday morning, some twenty-eight hours after the Taeping.

During the past few days the excitement occasioned by the probability of the arrival of the first ship in this great annual ocean race from China was unprecedented. The friends of each vessel have been supporting their favourite by betting considerable sums. During no previous year has so much interest been centred in the result of this race, and, from the fact of so many Clyde-built ships being engaged in the competition, Scotchmen generally have largely partaken in the speculation which has existed at almost every maritime port both in Britain and China. It will be remembered that last year the ships Fiery Cross and Serica left Foo-Chow-Foo for London together, on the 28th of May, both having been towed to sea by the same tug, and that both vessels arrived off the Isle of Wight simultaneously on Sept. 10, after a passage of 106 days. By a stroke of good fortune, however, the tug sent out by the owners of the Fiery Cross sighted her, took her in tow, and arrived in London one tide before her rival, the Serica, the latter having failed to sight the tug on the look out for her.

Singular to observe, the Taeping, Ariel, and Serica were all built by Messrs. Steele and Co., of Greenock. The Taeping and Ariel were constructed on the composite principle, wood and iron. The Serica is iron built.

The cargoes of the ships were—Taeping, 1,108,709 lb. of tea; Ariel, 1,230,900 lb.; the Serica, 954,236 lb.; Fiery Cross, 854,236 lb.; and the Taitaing, 1,093,130 lb.

The time occupied on the voyage by the three ships has been ninety-nine days, being seven days shorter than the time occupied by the Fiery Cross and Serica last year.

The Ariel, which was a new ship, was the first favourite among the shippers in China.

FREE SUNDAY AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—Sunday was the second and last free Sunday for this season at the Crystal Palace. The directors had issued 6000 free tickets to the secretary of the National Sunday League for distribution among the members of the Crystal Palace share clubs and their friends, who eagerly availed themselves of the privilege. The directors also allowed any of the trades' tickets for the previous Sunday not used on that day to be admitted last Sunday. The day being fine it appeared that nearly every ticket issued must have been used. On the 2nd inst. the 10,000 persons present at the Palace were almost without an exception artisans and their families. On Sunday last not more than half the number present would come under that denomination, the remainder belonging to the middle class. By five o'clock upwards of 12,000 visitors had reached the Palace, and a large number more came down by train after that hour. From three until five o'clock a selection of sacred music was performed on the great organ by the organist of the Palace, which was listened to with great interest and attention by a large audience. At the conclusion of the music short addresses were delivered from the large orchestra, after which the numerous company walked about in the Palace and grounds until dusk. Before nine o'clock the numerous company had all taken their departure with the same regularity, order, and propriety which had characterised the whole proceedings of the afternoon. It was stated by the committee that the total number of visitors, including children, amounted to nearly 15,000.

INTERESTING DISCOVERIES AT CROSTON CHURCH.

THE parish church of Croston has for some weeks past been undergoing internal restoration, and some additions to and alterations of the sacred edifice are to be effected. In the course of the operations so far, some singular and interesting discoveries have been made. On removing the plaster from the walls of the chancel, a small niche on the south side was laid bare. In it are two stoups, or small stone basins, which had evidently been separated in front by a thin ornamental stone pillar, a piece of stonework projecting from the upper part of the back of the niche being finished with a well-executed "rose" at the point where it had joined the pillar. The basins are each provided with an outlet at the bottom to drain off the contents. Before the Reformation such niches, with basins, were common in churches, and were sometimes placed in the chancel and sometimes at the west end of the church. When in the last-named locality they were used as baptismal fonts; but when placed within the chancel, and in close proximity to the altar, as those under notice were found, they were termed *piscina*, and were used as a lavatory, where the officiating priest washed his hands, and where the sacramental vessels were cleansed. Exactly opposite the niche containing these *piscina* was found, in the north wall of the chancel, one of similar size, containing an oaken cupboard, in which doubtless were kept the eucharistic vessels and elements. This part of the church, which is built of dark-red sandstone, was erected in 1240; the more modern parts were built at different dates, but principally about 1460. On the south side of the chancel is a chantry, founded by the Heskeths, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It is now called the Rufford Chapel. Adjoining it, and situated beneath the gallery on the south side of the church, is the De Trafford Chapel. North of the chancel is the Beconsall Chapel, which in 1538 was styled a chantry; in the seventeenth century it passed to the Banastres, of Bank Hall, Bretherton (long the manorial residence of the Banastres, and mentioned previously to the reign of Edward II.), and subsequently to Sir Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh, Bart., from whom this and the Rufford Chapel were purchased by the Rector. In a line with the Beconsall Chapel, and running beneath the north gallery, is the Bretherton Chapel. On the south-western side of the arch, between the Bretherton and Beconsall Chapels, the workmen have bared a well-executed shield of the Bretherton family, bearing their arms and cut in the stone. In taking off the plaster above the southern entrance to the church, several texts of Scripture were once more brought to light, among which are, "How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (Gen. xxviii. 17); and in the next compartment of the same tablet, "I am the door; by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John x. 9). These inscriptions, which have been hidden for ages, are in a tolerable state of preservation; but there are others, parts of which have been obliterated in the process of scraping; one of these, in black letters, cannot now be deciphered. On a pillar of the nave, opposite the north entrance, is the inscription, "Keep thy foot when thou goest into the house of God, and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fools" (Ecc. v. 1). Underneath this there is a black letter inscription, none of which can be deciphered but the date, "1668." Among the relics of antiquity discovered during these operations are several monumental brasses. One of these, which was found under the pews in the chancel, is in an excellent state of preservation, and the engraving of the inscription is remarkably fine. It is in Latin. In the lower right-hand corner of the plate are the arms of the Foxcrofts. We find that a church was in existence at Croston in the time of the Conquest, and that it was granted by Roger de Poitou to the monastery of St. Martin, Sees, in Normandy. The patronage was exercised by the priory of St. Mary, at Lancaster. In 1291 it was valued at £33 19s. 9d. A stipend of £3 19s. 9d. was in 1588 payable to the clerk of Croston out of the revenues of the duchy of Lancaster. The rectory was appropriated to the Abbey of St. Saviour, of Sion, by Pope Martin V. In 1429 it was ordained a vicarage by the Bishop of Lichfield. After the dissolution of the monasteries the patronage passed from the Crown to Anthony Browne, of Southwold, Essex, and was afterwards frequently disposed of. In 1755 it became vested in Legh Master, Esq., M.P.; but his son, the Rev. Robert Master, D.D., sold the advowson to Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, Esq. In 1821 it was transferred to the late George Smith, Esq., brother to Lord Carrington. In 1650 the net value of the living was returned at £300 8s. 3d. per annum. In the Valor of Pope Nicholas (1291) none of the chapels above noticed, not even those of the Rufford and Beconsall families, the oldest, are mentioned.—*Preston Herald*.

RAGS.

UNDER instructions from the medical officer of the Privy Council, Dr. J. S. Bristowe made inquiry last year into the influence of the rag trade in spreading infectious disease. The investigation was instituted in consequence of a representation that an epidemic of smallpox at Thetford, in the previous year, was occasioned by some women being employed in cutting up foreign rags in a paper-mill. Foreign rags, as Dr. Bristowe learnt, are now imported into Great Britain from almost every country; they come either from Japan and the most remote States of South America, but the continent of Europe is the chief source of supply. The bags containing them are not opened in the docks, and very rarely in the rag-merchants' warehouses, but transmitted in the condition in which they have been imported to those who purchase them for the purpose of their manufactures. Home rags also, for the most part, pass through the hands of the wholesale rag merchants, who are chiefly congregated in London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Bristol; but before reaching them they pass through various other hands, the marine-store dealers and the collectors of household rags sorting them more or less before selling them. The rag merchants, however, have to re-sort some. Generally there is no process adopted by the trade for cleansing or disinfecting rags up to the moment at which they leave the rag merchant's beyond such as may be involved in the sorting they undergo. Rags collected in country districts are, as a rule, cleaner than those collected in towns. Irish rags are generally very filthy, and many foreign rags (such as Italian, Spanish, Russian, and especially Egyptian) are often not only dirty, but most offensive in smell. Such rags are useless for any other purpose, are employed as manure in hop-grounds. With this exception all woolen rags are converted into shoddy, and articles consisting of a mixture of cotton and wool (called "challies") are now made available by removing the cotton by means of sulphuric acid. The cotton and linen rags go to the paper-mills, which also turn to account many other materials, such as old paper, pawnbrokers' tickets, and the minute discs which are punched from postage-stamp sheets, not to speak of straw and esparto grass. There are supposed to be in the United Kingdom 370 or 380 paper-mills; the quantity of paper made weekly at each varies from one to seventy or eighty tons, the amount of rags used being about 5 per cent in excess of the paper manufactured. The number of hands employed at a mill ranges from four or five to 700. One of the first processes to which the rags are subjected at the mill is that of dusting, by which is removed not only the extraneous dirt, but much of the animal filth which has become incorporated with them while in use. In some of the larger mills this is the first process, and is done by beating by machinery. The rags are thus, before being placed in the hands of the ragcutters, deprived of much of that which is likely to be offensive in them, and the rag-cutting room, which is always a dusty and not agreeable place, is rendered much more cleanly and sweet than it would otherwise be. But in many mills the dusting is not effected until after the rags have been cut and sorted. There is a single mill, Mr. Joynton's, in which from 250 to 350 ragcutters are employed. On inquiry among the workpeople in London, at the rag merchants' warehouses and the marine-store dealers', Dr. Bristowe failed to find any evidence that infectious diseases have been brought to them through the agency of rags, or that any fear prevails among them on the subject. In various paper-mills, however (a minority of the whole number), he found the workpeople disposed to attribute infectious diseases to the rags; and the evidence he collected seems to show that smallpox and other infectious diseases are very rarely introduced into paper-mills by rags, but that their introduction is possible, and occasionally does take place. In the Thetford case it was clearly shown that smallpox was introduced into the town in 1864 by foreign rags cut up by women at a paper-mill there. The epidemic lasted six or seven months, and caused sixteen or seventeen deaths. Dr. Bristowe got no evidence whatever of the conveyance by rags of any other disease than smallpox. He doubts if our hospitals ever sell their infected rags, and he doubts whether it is not exceptional to sell distinctly infected articles, even in the case of private households. The chief danger would seem to be incurred by the rag-collectors and retail ragdealers, who even live among the rags while they are yet fresh; but it rests with them to buy or decline to buy rags which are foul, and it is believed that they do sometimes exercise such a discretion. Before rags reach paper-mills they have been for the most part exposed in various ways to the atmosphere, and the preliminary dusting in the large mills must tend to deprive them of any infection. After they have been cut, they are boiled and subjected to chemical agencies, and necessarily rendered altogether innocuous. With the exception of a suggestion that care be taken that the workpeople engaged among rags have been vaccinated, Dr. Bristowe could only recommend that it might be made a misdemeanour knowingly to sell or buy rags which have been used about persons suffering from infectious disease without previous washing or otherwise disinfecting; but it would be a difficult matter to convict anyone of the offence. The compulsory use of disinfectants would be attended with an amount of inconvenience and expense which the trade is not at the present time in a condition to bear. Mr. Simon, reviewing the report, considers that the rag trade does not play any considerable part in the distribution of contagious disease; but more than this cannot be maintained.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.—The works of the Thames Embankment from Waterloo to Westminster Bridge, which have been some time in abeyance in consequence of the financial difficulties of the original contractor, are now progressing favourably. The contract having been taken up by Messrs. Brassey and Co., 500 hands will be employed in the course of a few days. The present contractors are determined, if possible, to make up for lost time. Unfortunately, the contract beyond Waterloo Bridge towards the City is not being carried on so vigorously as was expected.

mondbury, cellarman.—A. BEEVER, Round Close.—A. PARKER, Milford, Hampshire, carpenter.—W. JACKSON, Wrexham, confectioner.—E. JENNINGS, Bradford.—J. CAPLE, Gwennap, groom.—W. B. GIBBON, Skelton, tailor.—H. F. SCHWARZ, Waiworth, pocketbook-maker.

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FARES THREE AND BACK.—1st Class, 9s.; 2nd Class, 6s.; 3rd Class, 3s.
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 Children under Twelve years of age half price. No luggage allowed.

HASTINGS, ST. LEONARDS, EASTBOURNE, POLEGATE, and LEWES EVERY SUNDAY.—Trains from Victoria at 8.40 a.m., London Bridge at 8.10 a.m., calling at Croydon at 8.33 a.m.
 The Victoria Train will leave Hastings on the Return Journey at 6.35 p.m.; St. Leonards, 6.42 p.m.; Eastbourne, 6.55 p.m.; Polegate, 7.10 p.m.; and Lewes at 7.37 p.m.; and the Return Train for London Bridge will leave Hastings at 6.10 p.m.; St. Leonards, 6.18 p.m.; Eastbourne, 6.35 p.m.; Polegate, 6.47 p.m.; and Lewes at 7.12 p.m.
FARES THREE AND BACK, to ALL STATIONS.
 First Class, 7s. 6d.; Second Class, 5s. 6d.; Third Class, 3s. 6d.
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 The Victoria Train will leave Portsmouth on the Return Journey at 4.50 p.m.; Havant at 7.5 p.m.; Chichester at 7.33 p.m.; Bognor at 6.55 p.m.; Littlehampton at 7.15 p.m.; Arundel 7.53 p.m. And the Return Train for London Bridge will leave Portsmouth at 7.10 p.m.; Havant at 7.35 p.m.; Chichester at 7.43 p.m.; Bognor at 7.40 p.m.; Littlehampton at 7.15 p.m.; and Arundel at 8.13 p.m.
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